

Jones, Names Project dispute continues
But AIDS quilt creator will continue to receive health benefits, says the foundation.

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Governor to sign 'super DOMA'; DP registry opens.

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Gay at Sundance
Films for us at '04 Sundance Film Fest. see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Homophobia not motive in Antioch murder, friend says

by Ed Walsh

Jeffrey Myrick said that weeks before Chris Armstrong was murdered, his close friend seemed to have a sense that his life would soon be over.

Myrick, 23, fondly recalled the last night out that he spent with Chris Armstrong. They went bar hopping, winding up at Club 1220 in Walnut Creek. Although they had a great time together, what he remembered most was the underlying tone of the meeting. Myrick added that he's talked to other friends of Chris Armstrong's who related similar experiences.

"It was almost like he was subconsciously saying goodbye without realizing it," Myrick said.

Chris Armstrong, 24, was found shot to death along with his mother and father in their Antioch home on Thursday, January 22. Police say that Gary Armstrong killed his wife and son before shooting himself. Myrick got the news from a friend who called him on his cell phone while he was on his way to work.

Myrick told the *Bay Area Reporter* that before he was murdered, it seemed as if Chris Armstrong had a sense that his life would soon end.

Myrick disagreed with initial television news reports that quoted neighbors who suggested that Gary Armstrong killed his family because his son was gay.

"Gary knew about it and he was fine with it," Myrick said.

Gary Armstrong's sister, Shellie Pico, agreed.

"My brother had no problem with it," she told the *Contra Costa Times*. "Any family member knows he had no problem. We're all known. It was no big deal. We are all open. Gary said to me, 'That's fine. I don't know the details of what happened, but that had nothing to do with it. I'm his sister; he loved his son.'

One of Gary Armstrong's neighbors, Louis Alfred, also agreed. He told the *B.A.R.* that he doesn't think that Armstrong's son being gay had anything to do with the crime.

"I don't think Gary was homophobic at all," Alfred said.

Another neighbor, Rosalinda Diaz, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that Armstrong was having problems with his son because Chris Armstrong was unemployed and had recently moved back home. Diaz said that Gary Armstrong told her that he [Chris] "wasn't doing anything all day."

The bodies of Chris, Gary, and Mary Helen Armstrong were found in their Antioch home by the couple's 28-year-old daughter after her mother didn't show up for her job as a preschool teacher. Gary Armstrong

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Kicked out for staying drug-free? Man loses housing after filing grievance

by Zak Szymanski



William Scott Oliver, right, and his boyfriend Tom Hogendijk.

NGLTF's E.D. predicts gays will lose marriage fight 'We are under siege,' Foreman says

by Matthew S. Bajko

During a forum January 22 at San Francisco State University, the leader of a national LGBT rights organization called the fight for gay marriage "catastrophe" and predicted that proponents of a federal constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage will be victorious.

"The freedom to marry debate is a catastrophe for our movement. We now face a movement to amend our Constitution, and in 15 states, we are facing renewed efforts to outlaw gay marriage," said Matthew Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "We are under siege."

Participating in a policy debate on gay rights hosted by the National Sexuality Resource Center, Foreman later added that, "There is a strong likelihood we are going to lose" the fight against the federal constitutional amendment.

He likened advocates of the amendment, which would define marriage as solely between a man and a woman in the U.S. Constitution, as schoolyard bullies.

"We may not beat this bully but we are going to hit him in the nose. No one can say we simply whimpered away," said Foreman.

Gilbert Herdt, the resource center's director, said he agreed with Foreman's contention the amendment may very well succeed.

"If it succeeds it will be a grave peril to this democracy," said Herdt.

However, Herdt also contended it will not be easy for antigay proponents to win. He



NGLTF's Matthew Foreman

noted that the debate over gay marriage has ignited a new generation of gay activists like no other issue in the last 30 years.

"It is very difficult for a society to restrict rights. It is negative and Americans do not like negative things," said Herdt. "They will sometimes go along with this but it will be very difficult for Americans

to be able to swallow this bill of goods."

Judy Young, the resource center's national liaison and community outreach director, responded that she holds out hope the amendment will not pass.

"I tend to be an optimist," said Young, a board member of the Black Coalition on AIDS.

More positive note

At a gay marriage debate held on Tuesday, January 27 and sponsored by the Commonwealth Club's Inforum, a discussion group geared toward young professionals, advocates for gay marriage took a more positive tone. Matt Coles, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union's lesbian and gay rights project, said it is only a matter of time before

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Safeway demonstration sparks Castro clash

by Zak Szymanski

Castro residents and others who frequent the Church and Market Safeway may have been surprised to find hundreds of demonstrators in front of the Castro area grocery store last Saturday, January 24.

The mass protest was organized by the San Francisco Labor Council to support Southern California's striking workers from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and it had the effect of deterring many potential shoppers from walking through Safeway's doors. UFCW has been protesting a move by Safeway and other grocery stores to cut employee benefits, including healthcare, by as much as \$500 million over the next few years.

Initial news bulletins labeled Saturday's demonstration as "peaceful" and "without incident" but as the day progressed it was reported that police were called to the scene to address an "unruly" crowd. The day ended with one protester and one Safeway shopper cited, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

That shopper was San Francisco resident Brad Wells, who contacted the *Bay Area Reporter* this week to complain that he had been verbally and physically assaulted upon trying to enter the grocery store.

Wells, who has disabling AIDS, said he uses Safeway's services to avoid ATM fees and buy groceries at a place conveniently located near his home. He also enjoys the respectful and helpful staff there, he said. He went to Safeway last Saturday "just to get some money, and do a little shopping."

According to Wells and his two companions, they were rushed by protesters soon as they pulled into a parking space, then taunted with homophobic insults and physically threatened as they crossed the picket line. Upon exiting the store with a requested police escort, Wells said he found his car vandalized, with scratches on every door panel and two tires slashed, which is documented in a police report. He also believes that protesters followed him home and defecated in front of his garage and threw eggs at his

house.

"They said, 'You fags are the reason why we're losing our health care,'" Wells told the *B.A.R.* "Groups of people came over to us to scream at us and get in our faces. I never thought something like this would happen to me in my own neighborhood."

The protester cited for her involvement in the alleged incident was Gloria LaRiva, a well-known local militant unionist and activist associated with San Francisco's International Action Center.

LaRiva filed a police report of her own that day, for what she and witnesses said was Well's immediate physical assault upon her. LaRiva said she approached Wells to educate him on why he should not shop at Safeway, and Wells immediately called her a "whore," then spit at her and de-

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Names Project extends healthcare to Jones

by Matthew S. Bajko

Jone day after Cleve Jones, the creator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the Names Project Foundation, officials in Atlanta announced they will continue to pay for his healthcare costs and laid blame on Jones for their decision to fire him.

After he stepped down as the project's executive director in 1990 due to HIV-related complications, Jones claims he had a verbal agreement with the board that he would be employed as the project's founder for life and receive a yearly salary and health benefits. For the last five years, he said he has been paid \$41,500 a year with medical bills averaging \$2,000 per month.

Jones filed his suit in San Francisco last Tuesday, January 20 and is fighting not only to retain his job but to see the quilt returned to the Bay Area.

According to foundation officials, Jones was fired because he refused to negotiate with them about his future role with the organization. Since moving the quilt from San Francisco to Atlanta in 2001, they said the quilt's role in the battle against AIDS has changed and that Jones refused to reexamine his position with the organization. In an e-mail sent on December 31, 2003 the foundation informed Jones he was being fired.

In a statement released Wednesday, January 21, Edward Gatta, president of the foundation's board, said, "The strength of the original idea of creating the quilt carried this institution for

many years. Organizations grow and change and inevitably they reach pivotal points where change becomes crucial. In the last 24 months, the Names Project Foundation has undergone an extensive restructuring and Cleve Jones has refused to discuss his role in this change."

Gatta added that while both the board and Jones share similar goals, "it is essential that we adhere to strong fiscally responsible strategies for the organization so that the quilt will live to tell its story - today and in the future. We are disappointed that Cleve did not believe he could play a role in the organization as it is evolving today."

Jones, who resides in Palm Springs, countered "that is just silly. I didn't resign. I was fired. I want my job back."

Jones said that he did attempt to talk to foundation officials, even flying to meet with them last September 24 in Atlanta to discuss his concerns but that they did not show up.

"The foundation paid for my airfare to go there. I arrived at the designated time and place without an attorney and they walked out without speaking to me," he said. "I have never had an explanation for that. It is pretty bizarre."

In addition to maintaining Jones's medical coverage, the foundation said the opportunity for negotiation remains available to him.

"We are always willing to talk to Cleve, always willing to work for a positive resolution," stated Gatta.

Impasse

The two sides do agree that

they came to an impasse over the future of the quilt and whether it should be displayed on the Mall in Washington, D.C. this October, just weeks prior to the presidential election. Jones claimed he was able to secure the \$2 million in corporate funding needed to pay for displaying the quilt, which totals more than 44,000 panels and was last seen in its entirety in a 1996 display on the Mall in Washington D.C.

According to Jones, he requested the project's financial records to show to donors but the board and current Executive Director Julie Rhood refused to turn the documents over to him. He said he began to suspect that Rhood and the board no longer wanted to display the quilt and instead would like to house it in a permanent museum.

Last September, Jones sent Rhood and the board a scathing letter outlining his concerns about the foundation's management and handling of the quilt. Jones claims that in October the board and Rhood revoked his right to fundraise on behalf of the project and cut off all correspondence between him and board members.

In their statement, project officials contend that throughout 2003 the board explored the possibility of returning the entire quilt to the Mall as long as the \$2 million in funding could be secured by November 15, 2003. Jones claims he could have met that goal but Gatta stated, "This funding goal was not met and therefore, the 2004 D.C. display as contemplated was not pursued."

The board, according to Gatta, has authorized a smaller display of

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LGBT center launches job fair series next week

by Zak Szymanski

In keeping with its commitment to provide the LGBT community with economic empowerment, the San Francisco LGBT Community Center has announced a series of job fairs and workplace seminars scheduled for this year. Everyone from the career-curious to the diversity-minded employer is encouraged to attend.

The first "Job Fair and Workplace Compliance Seminar" takes place Thursday, February 5 and is a daylong event "for job seekers to discover the center as a resource for their career development, and for employers to partner with the center to develop and maintain a diverse workplace," according to center officials.

Next Thursday's job fair will focus mainly on the banking, securities, and credit card industries of the greater Bay Area. Future job fairs will highlight nonprofit, healthcare, and hospitality industries, to name a few.

The day begins at 10 a.m., with a workplace compliance seminar until noon. The seminar is geared toward employers and will ad-

dress how California's new laws — including the Equal Benefits in State Contracting Act, the Gender Nondiscrimination Act, and the Domestic Partnership Rights & Responsibilities Act — impact recruiting and retention practices.

The keynote speaker is diversity training coach Simma Lieberman, and panelists include staffing consultant Katy Johnson of Wells Fargo; discrimination settlement recipient Michael Romero; employment and labor attorney Julius Turman of Haight Brown & Bonesteel; and employment and labor attorney Katherine Catlos of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith. Attendees should leave the seminar with "new tools to create a positive and inclusive work environment," according to organizers.

From noon until 4 p.m. is the workforce recruitment and job fair, with at least a dozen potential employers expected to attend.

For LGBT job seekers and those pondering a new career, the fair is a great place to start, said Thom Lynch, executive director of the center.

"This is a place for people to come and meet with potential employers and ask any questions

to kind of get a feel for the field," said Lynch. "The employers will have all types of jobs, from entry level on up."

Employers can still get in on the action, as the job fair is a great way for companies to connect with qualified candidates, according to organizers, who stated in a release, "The center is your premier recruitment gateway into the LGBT workforce. It is also an excellent opportunity to showcase your commitment to workplace diversity and inclusion."

Lynch said that the center plans on doing follow-up with job fair attendees, to see who got interviews, who got jobs, and to learn how to make future events even better.

The job fair is free for LGBT job seekers.

The community center's March job fair will focus on healthcare, pharmaceutical, and biotech industries, and the May job fair will highlight real estate and mortgage fields.

For more information on next week's event, visit www.sfcenter.org/jobfair. To register as a company seeking qualified employees, call (415) 865-5534 or e-mail davidb@sfcenter.org.

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PUBLISHER

Bob Ross (1971 - 2003)

NEWS EDITOR

Cynthia Laird

ARTS EDITOR

Roberto Friedman

POLITICAL EDITOR

Wayne Friday

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Matthew S. Bajko
Mark Mardon
Zak Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler • John Bianco
Dan Blue • Victoria A. Brownworth
Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter
Aaron J. Cohen • Richard Dodds • Eric Ganther
Glen Helfand • Liz Highleyman • Joe E. Jeffreys
Brandon Judell • Robert Julian • John F. Karr
Matthew Kennedy • David Lambie • Mister Marcus
Paula Marinac • Michael McDonagh • Gary Morris
Jim Nawrotki • Lois Pearlman • Deborah Peifer
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Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr • Adam Sandel
Jason Serinus • Will Shank • Gregg Shapiro
Michael Wade Simpson • Gwendolyn Smith
Alex Robertson Textor • Paul Thompson
Stephanie von Buchau • Helen Vozenilek
Ed Walsh • Dick Walters

ART DIRECTION & LAYOUT

Adrian Roberts

AD PRODUCTION & DESIGN

T. Scott King

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Rich Garitano

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene PhotoGraphics
Marc Geller
Rick Gerhardt

ILLUSTRATORS & CARTOONISTS

Christine Smith
Ron Williams

GENERAL MANAGER

Michael M. Yamashita

ADVERTISING MANAGER

David McBrayer

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Elsa Lee

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Rivendell Media
212.242.6863

LEGAL COUNSEL

Thomas E. Horn, Esq.

MEMBER

National Gay Newspaper Guild

United Press International



Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
<http://www.ebar.com>

News Editor • barpaper@aol.comArts Editor • bararts@aol.comAdvertising • baradv@aol.com

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Housing is healthcare

This week we report on the case of a San Francisco gay man, William Scott Oliver, who is expected to lose his housing this Sunday primarily because he has successfully kicked his drug addiction and has filed a grievance with the nonprofit Baker Places, his treatment services provider, when he had to deal with unsatisfactory living conditions. There's something wrong with this picture – and the case calls for the need for immediate solutions to provide more affordable housing in the city – and for treatment providers like Baker Places to take a more proactive role in exit strategies for its clients.

While Oliver had his own well documented problems with the apartment he was renting through Baker Places, the agency's decision to vacate the building entirely and find new housing for all the tenants except Oliver smacks of retaliation. "You filed a complaint against us, so we're kicking you out" is what the agency seems to be saying to him, despite its claim that his dissatisfaction with a dirty, drug-infested home meant he no longer wanted to stay housed through the program.

Where's the incentive to complete a program successfully if the result is that you'll suddenly be booted out onto the street? Oliver seems to be caught in a dreadful Catch-22. And while Baker Places can argue that clients most at risk of relapse are in greater need of housing, we believe the case can also be made that people who are successful in completing a drug rehabilitation program are also susceptible to relapse if there is no planned transitional exit from the treatment facility and stable housing is not found. Such planning definitely seems to be missing in Oliver's case.

Richard Bargetto, director of the city's HIV Consumer Rights Advocacy Project, agrees with Oliver that his being a model client has resulted in his loss of housing.

And this points to the need for a new solution. There are thousands of people on the HIV housing waiting list, and thousands more waiting for Section 8 vouchers; these don't seem like options for Oliver, who has only a few days to find a new place to live.

In the long term, the city should work with service providers and with agencies, such as Baker Places, to see if a resolution can be found. It may be too late for Oliver, but he is hardly the only person ever to complete a drug treatment program successfully. And we suspect that for many others in similar programs

who are nearing completion of treatment, stable housing is a major concern.

Housing is healthcare, as Bargetto told us, and we agree. Treatment providers cannot be allowed to terminate clients' housing arrangements suddenly, especially when that power can be used in retaliation for filing a complaint, as is Oliver's case. In the next few days, Baker Places should work with Bargetto and Oliver to see if a temporary solution can be found. If housing has been secured for the other Baker Places clients who lived in the building, then surely the agency can find an apartment for Oliver. ▀

Editorial



Time to take up the fight

by Carole Migden

I remember the outrage. I remember when gays and lesbians had nothing as a community and we came together to protest civil rights injustices. We fought long, difficult battles passionately and repeatedly until we won meaningful rights like domestic partnerships, employment and housing anti-discrimination, and property rights.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas law that outlawed sexual relations between consenting adults, simultaneously striking down 14 similar state laws nationwide. New Jersey just became the fifth state to codify gay and lesbian relationships in their state law. Fifteen states have anti-discrimination laws on their books, and the Episcopal Church recently ordained an openly gay bishop.

But now that we've made some gains, many gays and lesbians have lost the urgency of the struggle. We're sitting in our living rooms with our *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* when we should be seeing ourselves on the nightly news protesting. It's time to take up the fight again to prevent our hard-fought rights from being eroded from under our feet.

By now, you've probably heard that President George Bush endorsed the Federal Marriage Amendment, a.k.a. House Joint Resolution 56, in his State of the Union speech. And I say it's time we told him how we feel about it.

Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R) from Colorado introduced HR56 into relative obscurity late last year. Since then, the conservative right has taken up the issue as their latest attack on lesbians and gays and have brought the issue to the front lines thinking it will upset our bid for the White House. But the leading contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination have all expressed support for lesbian and gay families.

And, public opinion is beginning to sway

toward non-traditional families, so proponents of HR56 have been able to muster only a scant 38 percent of Americans in favor of a constitutional amendment dedicated to snatching our rights. That's a far cry from the two-thirds of each house of Congress and three-quarters of states needed to ratify a constitutional amendment. In fact, while 55 percent of Americans still balk at gay marriage, only 51 percent wouldn't support civil unions, according to a *Washington Post* poll.

Uncharacteristically, the federal government is intruding into an area of law that has overwhelmingly been the purview of the states for over 200 years. Instead of remedying an injustice or clarifying an uncertainty, this constitutional amendment is attempting to impose a flawed moral judgment on all Americans. It also injects family law into the U.S. Constitution, and it is one of the few amendments to actually take away rights from American citizens rather than bestow them.

Beyond the fact that lesbian and gay couples have no access to civil marriage, which grants nearly 1,000 rights to heterosexual couples, HR56 outlaws de facto marriages such as domestic partnerships and civil unions. This strips states of their right to sovereignty in determining the nature of their own marriage laws.

Four years ago, when then-Governor Gray Davis signed California's first domestic partnership law, California became the first U.S. state to recognize same-sex relationships without a court order. The bill also guaranteed hospital visitation rights and offered health coverage for registered domestic partners of state employees and certain local agency public employees. Two years later, Davis signed legislation to allow partners to seek compensation for the loss of economic or emotional support, make medical decisions in the hospital, and act as

a conservator to tend to a partner's medical and financial needs. Finally, last year, he signed AB205, which passed along a range of responsibilities, including financial custody rights, debt obligations, child custody rights, housing protections, and rights to public services.

These changes came incrementally. They are on the books today because of hard-fought victories; even in progressive San Francisco, the first domestic partnership initiative in 1989 failed to meet voter approval. Fortunately, a few years later, we created the model for California's domestic partnership rights that cover all domestic partners statewide today. And other states, local governments, and companies have followed in our path. California's new domestic partnership laws have created a structure for thousands and

thousands of committed couples to register as domestic partners. These committed relationships are in society's interest because they strengthen our community, and help create a just society.

However, we're still bereft of the ability to file joint tax returns, collect Social Security benefits, and allow non-citizen spouses to reside freely in the country without fear of deportation along with many others. These basic rights reflect American values and form the core of civil marriage. Denying them to same-sex couples violates the spirit of our country and is a fundamental inequity.

So I say call George Bush and take him to task. And demand from your Democratic leaders that they do the same. Our rights and the lives of the people in our community are at stake. ▀

Guest Opinion

Carole Migden (D), a former San Francisco supervisor and state assemblywoman, is the chairwoman of the California Board of Equalization.

Stop City Hall marriages

Mark Leno's work for gay marriage is admirable, but the idea of a balloon and streamer decorated bus traveling the Central Valley is pathetically lame [*"Gay activists welcome wedge politics in marriage debate,"* January 22]. It is pretty obvious that except for the trips to his legislative office he has not been to the valley much.

I was born and raised in the Modesto area, the fear and ignorance of the people there will make the bus about as welcome as an American Humvee in Baghdad. Any politician who campaigns for gay marriage on the basis of fairness will get a one-way ticket out of Sacramento.

Wasting time and political capital in the Central Valley will get us nothing. They believe granting marriage licenses to gays will make their children turn gay. It's shockingly ignorant but I have heard it with my own ears.

We have to exercise our power — San Francisco is the place to start.

Currently we have an apartheid system — even in our beloved city. Heteros are given a big perk denied to gays and lesbians. That perk is marriage — we are offered something less — domestic partnerships.

San Francisco ought to stop offering marriage at City Hall. Everyone who comes to City Hall should automatically get domestic partnership — gays and straights — everyone equal.

What's good for the goose will have to be good enough for the gander.

Can you imagine the mainstream press headlines "San Francisco Outlaws Straight Marriage."

Of course, we don't have to outlaw it, just cut off funding for the little clerk who fills out the forms. I equate this person at City Hall who denies marriage licenses to gays as a Nazi collaborator. Just a little cog in our oppression, and we pay his salary.

If San Francisco stops performing hetero marriages other cities will soon follow suit, just as they did with the domestic partner benefits. Denying their lovely little wedding rituals will scare the bejeus out of the right-wing zealots.

Dale Hamilton
San Francisco

[Editor's note: As the article stated, the bus ride is actually the idea of Marriage Equality California.]

Bush not voice of God

Mr. Bush, this may surprise you, but not everyone believes that you are the voice of God on earth nor are you the Messiah who has returned with his second coming or a second Moses. Your "state of the delusion" sermon was very insightful by clearly stating that if you agree with certain national issues, it is God's will, but if you disagree with certain issues, God is stating his disapproval with your voice.

You keep stating throughout your dictatorship that the American people enjoy great freedoms. This may be true for you and your buddies, doing whatever you want because you have more money to spend than the rest of the people in the country combined. Most of us do not live in this so-called freedom you have but are in economic bondage or slavery to your buddies' corporations.

Next, you say we should ignore the rulings of "activist judges" if they rule against the "will of the people." Well, as I recall, Al Gore received the majority of the votes by the "will of the people," and it was five justices of the U.S. Supreme Court who appointed you president. So, "we the people" must accept your divine command to ignore these same "activist judges," because they support the rights of all Americans and not just the majority? So we must all accept your "arbitrary will" now in this instance and ignore the "will of the people" in the 2000 presidential election? How convenient.

And now, steroids. Well, this was certainly a major issue to be addressed. Of course, since most pharmaceutical grade anabolic steroids are made in Europe, this means that your pharmaceutical corporate buddies in the U.S. are not reaping the profits by their sale, a national catastrophe. But, as we all understand that the Olympic trials are soon to begin, and needing to preserve the untarnished picture of the super-strength in athletes of this country without the use of chemical enhancements (as other countries may use), and also, to illustrate to the world that you are "tough on drugs" in the "war on drugs" (why are prescription drugs never mentioned, I wonder). For it is obvious that one who uses anabolic steroids has more muscle strength and size than one who does not (a professional bodybuilder is more obvious than a track star, though). Both Reagan and your father picked on the body-builders (less than 1 percent of the population), for they are an easy target and both presidents needed evidence that their drug war policies were working.

After all, minorities are easy targets, even though they too, count as part of "we the people." And we know God hates minorities, except the minority of the super-wealthy, who are his favorites.

Douglas Alexander Matley
San Francisco

Freezing at theatre

I recently attended an evening show at the Castro Theatre. The theater was so cold that I had to sit bundled up in my winter coat and hat!

I thought that my purchase of an \$8.50 ticket entitled me to a heated theater in the middle of January. I was mistaken.

Needless to say, I will not be returning to the Castro Theatre anytime soon.

Bruce Marshall
San Francisco

What a dump

I'd like to let all these people who help keep the Castro a magnet for the homeless and riffraff in general know that from now on, whenever I see one of them encouraging one of these individuals to hang around here with monetary handouts, I will say something. I have had it! One of them took a dump right out by our front entrance on a recent Sunday night. Now the barbarians are literally at the gate and that is simply unacceptable. Enough!

Anthony Rhody
San Francisco

Does Ose propose censoring Bible?

U.S. Representative Doug Ose (R-California) wants to banish certain "profanities" from the airwaves. By doing so, his law may prohibit certain Bible verse from being recited or read aloud on radio and TV.

Congressman Ose's bill, HR 3687, would prohibit broadcast of certain "profane" words and phrases. The bill provides that "the term 'profane,' used with respect to language, includes the words 'shit,' 'piss,' 'fuck,' 'cunt,' 'asshole,' and the phrases 'cock sucker,' 'motherfucker,' and 'asshole,' compound use (including hyphenated compounds) of such words and phrases with each other or with other words or phrases, and other grammatical forms of such words and phrases (including verb, adjective, gerund, participle, and infinitive forms)."

At least one of Ose's words, "piss," appears in the King James Bible. In one instance, the text refers to all those who "pisseth against the wall" — that is all males, or at least all males beyond infancy. Perhaps the verb "to piss" wasn't considered obscene in 1611.

Does Ose realize he's banning parts of the Bible? I advise him to check his list against a concordance (word index) to the King James Bible, to see if any more of his banned words or phrases appear therein.

In British and Australian (as contrasted with American), the word "asshole" and the phrase "ass hole" would be "arsehole" and "arse hole," respectively. Does Ose mean to ban the Brit spellings and pronunciations, or merely the American? Does "other grammatical forms" include "other dialectal forms"?

Apparently "ass" and "arse," without that pesky hole, are okay by Ose. The linguistic complexities boggle my queer, um, whatever.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Thanks to leather community

Kudos to SF Leather Daddy XX Tony Koester for hosting a great beverage benefit (plus dinner) to support the Stop AIDS Project's leather events advisory group at the Eagle Tavern January 18. Hurrah to his trusty helper, SF Leather Daddy's Boy XXI Joey Sequaera, as well.

Many, many thanks to the Stop AIDS Project's volunteers and staffers who manned the door, sold raffle tickets, prepared and served the delicious supper, conducted individual outreach in the crowd, and made logistics a breeze. Special appreciation goes out to all the men of the Eagle Tavern. The raffle prizes were great, donated by our South of Market merchant partners and other special benefactors.

Mr. Marcus, your "Events in Leather" solo SF listing in the Bay Area Reporter let those in the city for a three-day weekend know just where to be on a Sunday afternoon. Many good wishes for this Year of the Monkey to you.

I bet those at the Eagle Tavern that day will agree this was a spectacular mid-January event. Thanks to everyone who attended — and reached deep to support locally funded, community-based HIV prevention efforts. Please come join the Stop AIDS Project's LEAG to promote health and well-being in our community in 2004 and beyond.

Teddy Partridge
SOMA Neighborhood Organizer
Stop AIDS Project
San Francisco

Send letters to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, or e-mail to BARpaper@aol.com. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

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Visibility is L-ementary

by Paula Martinac

Is it better if lesbians are visible or invisible in popular culture?

That may sound like a silly question with only one possible answer, but it's one that's been raised by the premiere of Showtime's new lesbian-themed series, *The L Word*. Without a doubt, my vote is for visibility, even if there's no possible way to agree on how lesbians should be represented.

There's been a fair amount of public and private griping about *The L Word*, much of it even before the show hit the airwaves. One big complaint has been that "real" lesbians don't look like the pretty, ultra-feminine characters on the show, only one of whom is portrayed by a bona-fide lesbian (Leisha Hailey). Showtime has taken quite a few knocks for giving the world these "fake" lesbians, even though the show has both a lesbian creator/producer (Irene Chaiken) and director (Rose Troche).

Epitomizing the show's critics, columnist Winnie McCroy complained in the *New York Blade* and its sister paper, the *Washington Blade*, that all the characters in the series are "straight-looking" femmes, with no accompanying butches in sight. In McCroy's view, if the only choice for dyke representation on TV is to see "clipped and plucked 'lesbians,'" she'd choose invisibility.

This criticism suggests that all dykes fall into neat categories of butch and femme. Because I don't identify as either, does that mean I'm not a real lesbian? Or maybe I'm just a butch in denial. (Don't laugh — that was suggested to me once by an earnest femme.) Indeed, although butch-femme identity is definitely an important aspect of lesbian culture, it's not the only way to be a dyke.

Obviously, when viewing the Showtime series, many lesbians — especially those who don't live in glam Los Angeles, where the show is set — aren't going to see themselves. After all, there aren't just a couple of flavors of "lesbian," any more than there are just a couple of flavors of "heterosexual." But to tell the truth, I didn't see myself in the hip, young, urban lesbians of Troche's much-acclaimed film *Go*.

The problem with popular culture, of course, is that it hardly ever resembles "real" real life.



However, that doesn't mean I didn't appreciate those movies for telling the stories of some lesbians' lives — even though those lives weren't anything like my own.

The decidedly unglamorous, 40-ish lesbian lovers of the movie *Late Bloomers* are actually a bit more like my immediate circle of dyke friends and acquaintances. Oddly, some reviewers in the gay press dismissed that movie because the middle-aged characters weren't attractive enough.

The problem with popular culture, of course, is that it hardly ever resembles "real" real life. Indeed, maybe reality TV programming is so popular because the people on those shows are often just as average-looking as the rest of us — until they get to explore the fantasy of being made over.

There aren't, for example, many African Americans on TV, and those that do crop up still only represent a slice of black people's experiences. Asian Americans remain stereotypes on TV and in mainstream movies like the remake of *Freaky Friday*, in which a Chinese woman casts a creepy Eastern spell over the white folks. We rarely get to see middle-aged women on screen except as devoted moms and grannies; two recent notable exceptions were in the films *Calendar Girls* and *Something's Gotta Give*. And while Americans keep getting fatter, almost all of the characters on our

TV and multiplex screens continue to be trim. Even my hometown of Pittsburgh doesn't resemble the pulsating gay mecca where the *Queer as Folk* gang hangs out.

If, then, television and movies have trouble getting lots of people "right," maybe there are more meaningful criteria for judging popular culture than simply how the characters on screen look. Ultimately, I think the big question to ask of *The L Word* isn't whether the actors are too pretty, but whether the series speaks to our humanity. Can it successfully portray some of the basic problems, desires, joys, challenges, and frailties that lesbians, as members of the human race, encounter and that viewers, gay and straight, can relate to?

If *The L Word* can do that, it will be a boon, since for years lesbians have been off everyone's radar screens but our own — for the simple reason that most of us don't have sex with men. The name of the show alone is a plus, because it forces viewers to think "lesbian," the term many of us prefer over "gay woman." In much the same way, *Queer as Folk* helped bring "the Q word" into more widespread usage, even as it brought sexually active gay men into straight Americans' living rooms. And that's no small accomplishment. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Tranny royalty crowned



Outgoing Miss Transgender San Francisco 2003 Rachel Hill, center, crowns the new winner for 2004, Anne Louise, as Mr. Transgender San Francisco 2004 Bobby Cheung looks on. The winners were announced at the conclusion of the annual Cotillion, held Saturday, January 24 at the San Mateo Marriott. This year's contest saw six candidates vie for the Miss TGSF crown, while there were two competitors for the Mr. TGSF title. The 21st annual pageant and celebration of transgender pride was held by TGSF.

POLITICS

John Kerry worries Bush and the GOP

by Wayne Friday

After nearly a year believing – indeed looking forward to the assumption that former Vermont Governor Howard Dean would be his opponent in the November general election, the Bush White House and Republican strategists now are reportedly taking a second look, in fact a much more worrisome look, at what appears to be happening in the Democratic presidential process.

Karl Rove, the top political guru for **George W. Bush**, has in the past barely been able to conceal his anticipation that Bush would likely be facing Dean, and Republicans clearly felt for months that they could easily handle the antiwar Dean in much the same way that then-President Richard Nixon knocked off former Senator **George McGovern**, the Democratic presidential nominee who lost every state except Massachusetts back in 1972.

After very strong showings in both Iowa and New Hampshire, however, Massachusetts Senator **John F. Kerry** now becomes the Democrat to watch and Bush Republicans are reportedly not particularly excited at what they are seeing. Bush & Company have felt all along that the shoot-from-thehip Dean, with little national experience and none in foreign policy, would be soundly beaten by Bush in the fall not only on the war issue, but also because of the ideological fight a Bush-Dean matchup would afford.

This week, however, Bush strategists have been forced to turn their sights from Dean to Kerry and many of those Republicans who predicted a Bush landslide in November only a few weeks ago are openly worried that Kerry could be very difficult to defeat. Indeed, a *Newsweek* poll this week actually had Kerry besting Bush by three percentage points in a hypothetical matchup if the election were to be held now.

One top GOP strategist said in Washington this week that, "The last thing we want" is a Kerry-Edwards ticket, something that could well become a reality. Indeed, after Iowa and New Hampshire, some Bush advisers are already speaking of the former front-runner Dean in the past tense, a sure sign that they feel they are now in for a contest, particularly if Kerry goes on to land the Democratic nomination.

It is now obvious that Bush strategists, after hoping for a presumed easier Bush-Dean matchup, now worry that Kerry, or even a Southerner like Senator **John Edwards** of North Carolina would be tougher for Bush. A Kerry-Edwards Democratic ticket would, in the minds of many Democrats, be the ideal slate. Edwards would help the ticket as a Southerner in states that Bush would be taking for granted, and Kerry gets very high marks from voters who feel he is clearly someone they could trust during a time of war, something that secretly bothered the most fervent of Dean supporters.



Assemblyman Mark Leno and Senator John Kerry at an event last year.

A top Bush campaign strategist told the *Los Angeles Times* this week that, "John Kerry is a very competent leader; he has demonstrated that he can win elections, he's obviously a very seasoned politician." Kerry's heroic war record and the fact that he was a former prosecutor gives him a positive political status with many voters despite his well-known liberal Massachusetts background. Democrats in both the

Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary

showed they are looking first for electability in a candidate – they clearly want to defeat Bush in November – and although Dean's antiwar stance inspired many of the party faithful, many of those same Democrats apparently have doubts whether the former Vermont governor could take it to Bush in November.

Bush's political strength comes from his going to war against Iraq and his response to the terrorist attacks of September 2001. Many Democrats – as well as independents – feel that with a distinguished military service record of his own, Kerry could more than hold his own on the issues of war and terrorism.

The February 3 primaries in states like South Carolina (where Edwards was actually born), Missouri, New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma will go a long way toward shaking out the Democratic field, and Kerry, with his strong showings in Iowa and New Hampshire, is now clearly the Democratic front-runner and the one that Bush, Rove, and the Republican Party would least like to face in November.

Apparently a bit worried about Kerry's new front-runner status, Republican National Committee chairman **Ed Gillespie** this week quickly shifted his criticism from Dean to Kerry, saying that, "Kerry is even more liberal than [Massachusetts Senator] **Ted Kennedy**, clearly out of step with American voters." With the GOP party boss

now openly attacking Kerry on a regular basis, Kerry has got to feel pretty good about eventually becoming Bush's opponent in the November election.

Clearly, Dean has plenty of supporters and a lot of money and it is too early to count him out, but Edwards is very likely to win in South Carolina next week, and with Connecticut Senator **Joseph Lieberman** dropping by the wayside, it is clearly Kerry that Bush and the Republicans are now concentrating on. They have already taken to honing their criticism of Kerry as being "nothing more than a Northeastern liberal – Dukakis with height," as one Bush aide put it this week, referring, of course, to former Massachusetts Governor **Michael Dukakis** who lost the 1988 election to **George H.W. Bush**.

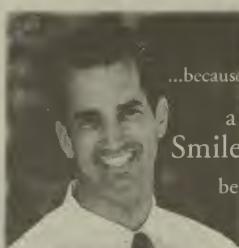
Incidentally, assuming that Kerry stays on a roll for the next month, the March 2 California primary, where 370 delegates will be chosen, could all but wrap it up for the Massachusetts senator. In addition, a win by Edwards on Tuesday in both South Carolina and/or Oklahoma could propel him to the vice president slot with Kerry. All presumptive, of course, but something the Republicans appear to be taking very seriously.

With only Iowa and New Hampshire in the bag, the primary season has already produced some big winners (Kerry and Edwards) and some early big losers – Representative **Richard Gephardt** (D-Missouri), Dean, organized labor (particularly in Iowa), and the Bush White House, which wanted Dean as the nominee.

Politics and people

Look for U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) to be campaigning hard for John Kerry during the upcoming state primary; the senior California senator was among the first to get behind the Kerry candidacy, but even before Feinstein, popular local politicians Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) and City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** were among the very first to line up be-

next page ▶



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What was the Mitchell/Ward murder case?

by Liz Highleyman

January 25, 1892 (112 years ago this month): Alice Mitchell murders Freda Ward in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 1892 murder of 17-year-old Freda Ward by her "girl lover," 19-year-old Alice Mitchell, was widely covered in both the mass-circulation press and the medical literature of the day, helping to shape the public perception of lesbianism at the turn of the 20th century.

Alice and Freda were both daughters of well-to-do Memphis families. Alice was a tomboy who preferred games such as baseball to girlish amusements. During Alice's trial, a friend testified that Alice was "more like a boy than a girl." Freda, in contrast, was considered a proper, feminine young lady (although family and friends called her "Fred").

As teens, Alice and Freda – classmates at the Higher School for Girls – developed an extraordinarily close relationship. In May 1890, Freda moved to the town of Golddust, some 80 miles north of Memphis, where she lived with her two sisters. Alice and Freda, upon their separation, began a

passionate correspondence in which they pledged their love to one another. But Freda often flirted with young men, and Alice grew increasingly jealous. She threatened to kill one of Freda's suitors and once, during a visit, tried to poison Freda, and then herself, with laudanum.

In early 1891, Alice proposed marriage to Freda and presented her with an engagement ring. They devised a plan in which Alice would take the name "Alvin J.

Ward" adopt male attire, cut her hair, and even try to grow a mustache if Freda desired. They conspired to elope by boat and move to St. Louis, where Alice would support the couple working as a man.

But Freda's older sister Ada was not happy with the relationship, claiming the young women were "disgusting in their demonstrations of love for each other." She got wind of the marriage plan and returned the engagement ring. "Don't try in any way, shape, or manner to have any intercourse with Fred again," Ada wrote to Alice. "Stay at home and attend to your own business and Fred will do likewise." The forced separation threw Alice into a deep depression. She refused to eat and spent hours brooding over Freda's old letters.

On the afternoon of January 25, 1892, at the end of a visit to Memphis, Freda was scheduled to board a steamship to return to Golddust. Alice, driving a horse-drawn carriage, followed Freda and two companions from her lodging house to the waterfront. Near the customs house, Alice left her carriage and overtook Freda on the street, grabbing her and cutting her with a razor she had stolen from her father. Freda's sister Jo tried to fight off Alice with an umbrella, but Alice succeeded in slashing Freda's throat.

Alice leapt into her carriage and sped home. She was arrested and jailed that evening, charged with premeditated murder. During questioning, Alice expressed little remorse. "I would have been Freda's slave. I would have devoted my whole life to making her happy," she said in a statement provided to reporters by her attorneys. "But when Freda returned my engagement ring it broke my heart ... I resolved to kill Freda because I loved her so much that I wanted her to die loving me."

Sensational press coverage of the case soon swept the nation, with one headline calling the

murder "A Tragedy Equal to the Most Morbid Imaginings of Modern French Romances." Men and women gathered at the undertaker's house, the cemetery, and the courthouse, hoping, one reporter speculated, "to hear something excitingly naughty."

Lawyers, doctors, and journalists weighed in with conflicting interpretations of the crime. Some suggested Alice killed Freda because the latter had slandered her, while others believed the two women were rivals for the same man. But Alice's attorneys and several expert medical witnesses made the case that she was insane, basing their judgments on her failure to grasp that marriage between two women was absurd. Said one defense attorney, "A girl that thinks to assume the mask of a man ... take the place of a man and marry a woman – Your Honor knows there was madness at the bottom of that." At the same time, they took pains to emphasize that the respectable young women had not engaged in "coarse" or "unnatural" practices.

On July 20, the jury deliberated just 20 minutes before finding Alice mentally incompetent. She was committed to the Western Hospital for the Insane, where she died six years later, reportedly of consumption.

At the turn of the 20th century, according to historian Lisa Dugan, the Mitchell/Ward case became the prototype for a "lesbian love murder" narrative, in which the attempts of a mannish "invert" to usurp male social privilege and win the love of "normal" feminine woman end in tragedy. Within the emerging field of sexology, the case was often cited as an example of the pathology of same-sex love, and it helped shape popular conceptions of homosexuality as a mental illness. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Buring, Daneel. 1997. *Lesbian and Gay Memphis: Building Communities Behind the Magnolia Curtain* (Garland).

Duggan, Lisa. 2000. *Sapphic Slashers* (Duke University Press).

November): "In 2001, we did a bill that created the rapid HIV testing program to help AIDS clinics treat AIDS patients more efficiently and accurately; we join Mark Leno on building on that bill to further expedite the process."

All polls I've seen show Supervisor Tom Ammiano (District 9) as safe in the upcoming November elections, and Ammiano deserves another term hands down.

The state of George Bush (and gay marriage): Taking its cue from Dubya himself, Ohio lawmakers gave final approval last week to a measure banning gay marriage and prohibiting state employees

next page ►

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

hind the Massachusetts Democrat.

Incidentally, good work to Assemblyman Leno for getting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's quick signature on his rapid HIV test bill. How important is that? Well, even Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, not exactly Leno's closest political ally, issued a press release last week applauding the San Francisco legislator for his work on the HIV test bill. Migden (who's headed for John Burton's state Senate seat in

Exit only

by Jane Warner

3 800 block of 17th, January 24, 2 a.m.: Upon entering his garage to leave for work in the morning, a man was alarmed to find that a large hole had been cut out in the garage door. Upon a search of the garage, he discovered his two prized professional racing bicycles – valued at \$10,000 each – were missing. The resident also noticed his tool chest had been broken into and a power circular saw was left plugged into an electrical socket in the wall. Responding officers determined the suspect gained entry by kicking through the rotting wood in the garage door, then used the power saw to cut a larger hole in the garage so he could steal the bikes. There is no known suspect.

Vino veritas

800 block of Sanchez, January 24, 9:21 a.m.: An officer driving on Sanchez Street past 21st noticed a man duck out from a garage door carrying a white plastic grocery



bag. Because of many reported garage burglaries in the neighborhood, the officer followed the man as he quickly walked northbound on Sanchez. The officer stopped the suspect after a short distance and asked him what was in the bag. "Wine bottles," the man replied. "I found them in a garbage can." The officer looked inside the bag and found 13 unopened bottles of Charles Shaw Chardonnay wine. Another officer was called for backup as the first officer returned to the original garage, where he was able to speak to the resident, who reported that she had several bottles of wine in her garage that were now missing. The suspect, 41, was taken to Mission Station and booked for burglary as well as probation violation for a past burglary conviction.

Wake-up call

Unit block of Landers, January 26, 3:55 a.m.: A woman was awakened in the middle of the night by her doorbell incessantly ringing. When she went down to

the apartment lobby, she saw a man who appeared to be intoxicated pushing on all the doorbell buttons. Through the glass partition, the woman told the man to stop, but he continued pushing the buzzers. Thinking he may not have heard her, the woman opened the door, and the drunk quickly pushed his way inside, hitting her in the face and yelling that he was there to see "Alex." The woman screamed for help and a neighbor ran down to the lobby, but the drunk punched him in the face as well and pushed past both of them to an apartment upstairs where he banged on the door screaming for "Alex." The woman yelled up to him that "Alex" did not live there, and she was calling the police. Hearing this, the intruder ran back downstairs, knocked the cordless phone out of the woman's hand, then ran out the door fleeing northbound on 14th Street. Responding officers spotted the suspect running on Guerrero Street, where he was quickly apprehended. The 34-year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked for trespassing, injuring a phone line, dissuading a witness, and two counts of battery. ▼

LGBT cops announce scholarships for high school seniors

by Matthew S. Bajko

A n LGBT police organization is seeking applications from high school seniors for three scholarships named after a fellow officer killed in the line of duty.

The Pride Alliance, an employee group comprised of LGBT officers within the San Francisco Police Department, will select three students to be the inaugural recipients of the Officer Jon C. Cook Scholarship.

Cook, 38, died only blocks from his home on the evening of June 12, 2002. While responding to a call, Cook's patrol car collided with another marked police car at the intersection of 17th and Dolores streets. He died from injuries sustained in the collision.

Believed to be the city's first

out gay officer to die while on duty, Cook left behind a domestic partner, Jared Strawderman, and a police force rocked by grief over his death. A year later, the Pride Alliance formed and announced the creation of the scholarship.

Any 2004 high school graduate from the nine Bay Area counties is qualified to apply if they are an LGBT individual; the child of an LGBT parent; or the child of a San Francisco Police Officer either active or retired. Candidates must have a 3.0 grade point average or better and will be judged on their scholastic records, extracurricular activities, and local community involvement, as well as an essay to be completed by each qualified candidate.

The Pride Alliance will present three scholarships – worth \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$750 – at its annual

event in June.

Those eligible must return their application forms no later than March 15 and must provide the selection committee with a transcript of their high school credits no later than April 20.

Applications can be found on the Pride Alliance's Web site at www.SFPOPrideAlliance.org. They should be mailed to San Francisco Police Officers Pride Alliance; Officer Jon C. Cook Scholarship Committee; 584 Castro Street #653; San Francisco, CA 94114.

Donations are also being accepted to ensure future scholarships can be awarded. Checks should be made payable to the Officer Jon C. Cook Scholarship fund in care of San Francisco Police Officers Pride Alliance and be sent to the above address.

For more information call (415) 210-1321. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

from even getting benefits for domestic partners, whether they are gay or straight; Ohio's Republican Governor Bob Taft is said to be eager to sign the bill into law.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, that commonwealth's four Roman Catholic bishops are taking their fight against same-sex marriage directly to parishioners, with a direct-mail campaign to nearly a million Catholic families. Frustrated by what they say is a public misperception that they are bigots in opposing gay marriage (well?), the bishops said they were only upholding tradition. The bishops are sending a four-page letter to Catholic households asking them to lobby for a proposed amendment to the state Constitution that would ban same-sex marriages. Last November, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to bar gay couples from civil mar-

riage and give the state Legislature six months to rewrite the state marriage laws to provide benefits for gay couples. The Massachusetts Legislature is expected to take up the amendment in February.

Mayor Gavin Newsom still getting particularly high marks for naming Michela Alioto-Pier to his District 2 supervisorial seat; even Supervisors Chris Daly and Tony Hall seem to agree Newsom made a good appointment there.

My "Quote of the Week" comes from George W. Bush: "One of the most meaningful things that's happened to me since I've been the governor – the president – governor – president. Oops. Ex-governor. I went to Bethesda Naval Hospital to give a fellow a Purple Heart, and at the same moment, I watched him – get a Purple Heart for action in Iraq – and at that time – right after I gave him the Purple Heart, he was sworn in as a citizen of the United States – a Mexican citizen, now a United States citizen."

And how was your week? ▼

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Planners at work on Halloween 2004

by Matthew S. Bajko

As city officials and community groups plan for Halloween 2004, which falls on a Sunday this year, one idea gaining momentum is reviving a children's costume parade.

For years Cliff's Variety used to sponsor a kid's costume stroll, which was wildly popular according to longtime Castro residents. Promoters of the city-sponsored Halloween street party are considering bringing the costume parade back.

"Maybe Sunday warrants having something for the kids in the afternoon," said Terrance Alan, chair of the Entertainment Commission, during a meeting last Wednesday, January 21 held in City Hall. "We could also end early at 11 p.m. I don't know. That is something we could look at as a community."

After the success of last year's Halloween, which was not marred by violence and as much unruly behavior of years past, planners said they have gained the confidence of neighborhood groups and residents to expand on the 2003 event.

"With the buy-in success of last year's Halloween it gives us leverage for fine-tuning the event this year," said Alan.

Organizers are also discussing having entertainment on Saturday night this year. The Saturday night prior to Halloween has always been seen more as a neighborhood event, whereas Halloween night attracts revelers from

throughout the Bay Area. Alan stressed though, that any promotional material would focus solely on Halloween evening.

Other changes being planned for this year include moving the fire lane into the center of the streets and adding smaller stages where community groups could offer entertainment. Organizers are also looking at pushing back the annual March of Light Parade to later in the evening. Last year the parade kicked off the evening at 6 p.m. Parade organizers also hope to become more integrated with the city's marketing plans.

"We want to join forces and push it forward and make it a better event," said Jim Lightsey, the parade's coordinator. "We hope to integrate it more with the costume contest."

After receiving complaints for years about the Halloween street party, which city officials turned a blind eye to until last year, representatives from the Buena Vista, Duboce Triangle, and Eureka Valley neighborhood groups said residents did not voice many complaints over last year's party. The residents all pointed to the no-alcohol policy as greatly contributing to turning the evening into a pleasant experience.

Both KRON Channel 4 and media company Clear Channel have agreed to again be sponsors and expand their support this year. KRON is looking to expand its ability to report live from the Castro that evening.

"I am really excited about this year," said Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who made turning Hal-



Terrance Alan

loween into a safe, enjoyable event a top priority after his election in 2002. "I want to take this event to the next level. We turned a battle-

ship on a dime."

The city's financial problems are putting a damper on the plans for Halloween 2004. Audrey Joseph, a member of the Entertainment Commission, said money from the city's hotel tax fund, which pays for arts grants used for Halloween, is expected to be less than the nearly \$6,900 in arts grants last year.

"We don't know if we will get the same amount of money this year," she said.

However, due to the success of last year's event, organizers expect it will be easier to attract corporate sponsors. In 2003, Halloween organizers pulled in \$32,500 in sponsorship money, with another \$11,700 from the SF LGBT Pride Committee, which donated services to the event.

The event did raise roughly \$41,000 from gate donations – of

which \$15,767 went to six community groups – and planners hope to surpass that amount this year. They also are working on devising a better system to collect the money.

During last year's event, two buckets of money were reportedly taken by women dressed as angels representing themselves as being associated with the event staff and several other buckets were abandoned by volunteers. Luckily, they were recovered, with the money.

"People got tired. We found three missing buckets around a tree in front of Lucky 13 full of money," said Joseph.

Anyone interested in helping plan this year's event is invited to participate and offer suggestions. The next meeting to plan for Halloween will take place on Thursday March 18 at 6 p.m. in Room 201 in City Hall. ▼

Presidential candidates surveyed on AIDS

by Liz Highleyman

On the heels of the Iowa caucuses and in the run-up to this week's New Hampshire primary, AIDSVote.org last week released the results of a new survey of presidential candidates' positions on AIDS.

Six candidates for the Democratic nomination – retired General Wesley Clark, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Senator John Edwards (North Carolina), Senator John Kerry (Massachusetts), Representative Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), and Senator Joe Lieberman (Connecticut) – answered the survey. President George Bush and the Reverend Al Sharpton, the other Democrat in the race, did not respond to requests to participate.

"The candidates' responses illustrate their understanding of the critical leadership role the White House must play in the fight against AIDS," said Michael Kink of New York City's Housing Works. "We hope this information will help the electorate understand that critical role as well."

The survey was based on a model presidential platform that exemplifies a "wish list" endorsed by more than 1,500 AIDS activists and over 150 HIV/AIDS advocacy

and service organizations. The platform includes a commitment of money to fight global AIDS, support for trade policies that ensure access to affordable generic drugs, cancellation of debt for the poorest countries, and increased research on vaccines, microbicides, and simpler HIV drug regimens.

A nationwide coalition, which includes San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project and Project Inform, launched the AIDSVote.org Web site on World AIDS Day last month. The site is intended to educate candidates and voters alike about domestic and global AIDS issues.

All responding presidential candidates said they favor increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act (which includes money for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program).

All responding presidential candidates said they favor increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act (which includes money for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program) and have endorsed a pledge to commit \$30 billion to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria worldwide by 2008. They also all support comprehensive, science-based sex education and HIV prevention programs, and said they would lift the ban on federal funding for needle exchange.

In addition, the candidates all said they want to overturn current laws that bar foreign citizens with HIV from entering the United States and said they support services for HIV-positive undocumented immigrants.

In addition to AIDS-specific issues, the candidates' platforms also reflect the growing national concern about declining healthcare coverage and escalating prescription drug prices. All respondents said they support maintaining Medicaid as an entitlement program and favor the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which

would allow the program to cover treatment for people with HIV before they become disabled.

Clark has said he plans to extend health coverage to 30 million of the estimated 43 million Americans who lack health insurance. Kerry has said he supports universal catastrophic care coverage, while Kucinich favors a single-payer national health plan. Dean has a similar plan.

"Under the system that I propose, everyone would have access to healthcare, so covering HIV and AIDS would not be a question," Dean told *Art & Understanding* magazine last year. "People would have healthcare coverage."

All responding presidential candidates said they favor increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act (which includes money for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program).

Leading up to the New Hampshire primary that was held Tuesday, and which Kerry won, AIDSVote.org supporters and global AIDS activists traveled to the state to talk with the candidates and raise voter awareness about HIV/AIDS at home and abroad.

"Our next president must insist that all people with living with HIV receive immediate and high-quality treatment," said Julie Davids of Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project. "Our next president must assure that all who are at risk of contracting HIV are provided the best, scientifically-proven tools to protect themselves from and educate themselves about HIV infection, regardless of whether they live in South Africa or South Carolina, the Bronx or South Asia." ▼

Complete candidate responses, the model HIV/AIDS platform, and a list of endorsers can be found at www.aidsvote.org.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Ohio passes 'super DOMA'; domestic partner registry opens near Cleveland

by Cynthia Laird

As Ohio Governor Bob Taft (R) prepares to sign one of the most sweeping antigay marriage laws in the nation, a domestic partner registry opened for business Monday, January 26 in one of the state's cities.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Indiana, a proposed amendment to the state's Constitution defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman appears to be dead after a key lawmaker said the bill would not receive a hearing in the Indiana House, it was reported Tuesday, January 27.

Ohio ban

Last Thursday, January 22, the Ohio Senate approved one of the most far-reaching gay marriage bans in the country. Taft has said he will sign the bill, which is undergoing minor changes. The Associated Press reported that the bill says that same-sex marriages are "against the strong public policy of the state" and would prohibit state employees from getting benefits for domestic partners, whether they were gay or unmarried heterosexual couples.

The bill permits exceptions to the benefits ban, including cities, townships, schools, and private companies. Universities, however, are included in the measure.

The state Senate vote was 18-15 in the House; the vote was 69-23 in favor of the bill.

Passage of the measure drew a sharp rebuke and a plea that Taft veto the bill from the Human Rights Campaign.

"Our families are your neighbors - working hard and paying taxes just like everybody else," said HRC President Cheryl Jacques in a statement. "We deserve nothing less than equality under the law and should never be put at risk by discriminatory laws."

According to a January 21 article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro, a Republican, said he opposed the bill, saying it was "a little too broad," and "a little unfair."

Ohio gay rights activists were dismayed.

"It's a sad day for Ohio, to write discrimination into the laws of our state," said Tim Downing, chair of Ohioans for Growth and Equality and an HRC board member. "Even the attorney general of Ohio believes that this law is not necessary and seriously flawed. It's reprehensible that more public officials didn't join him in opposition to such a biased law."

HRC staff noted that in addition to the ban on gay marriage and benefits for domestic partners, the bill states that out-of-state same-sex couples who are both legal parents of their children may see these adoptions invalidated or not honored when they visit or move to Ohio. According to an analysis of the 2000 census, every county in Ohio is home to at least one same-sex couple.

Some business leaders in Ohio have expressed concerns about the bill, saying that it could hurt their bottom line. According to an article posted on the Advocate.com Web site, Dayton-based NCR Corporation told law-

makers that the ban could hurt the company's ability to recruit and keep employees. Additionally, Ohio State University lobbyists tried unsuccessfully to persuade Republican lawmakers to exempt universities from the benefits' ban. NRC Corporation, as well as other companies in Ohio, offer benefits to same-sex partners of employees, the article stated.

Thirty-seven states have passed laws recognizing marriage as the union between a man and a woman.

Despite the apparent likelihood of the ban becoming law, the nation's first domestic partner registry created directly by voters opened for business Monday in Cleveland Heights.

The Associated Press reported that five couples were in line at 9 a.m. when the Cleveland suburb began its registration program. Gay and straight unmarried partners can register.

The first couple to be registered was Nancy Thrambs, 59, and Fran Twomey, 47.

"It just feels great. It feels equalizing," Twomey told AP.

There are no rights provided for registered couples, but Thrambs said the registry has important symbolic value.

In the first hour, 17 couples registered, including one straight couple.

The Cleveland Heights initiative passed with 55 percent of the vote in the suburb of 50,000 last November.

Over in Indiana

In Indiana, the move to kill a defense of marriage act-type bill in Indiana was led by Representative Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City), who said that "with the multitude of issues we have to deal with that deal directly with people's lives, this just isn't a priority at this moment." Pelath is

chairman of the House Rules and Legislative Procedure Committee.

The Advocate.com Web site reported that Governor Joe Kernan, a Democrat, said there is no need for an amendment. Mitch Daniels, a Republican candidate for governor, said he does not favor an amendment banning same-sex marriage, though he said he believes in the "traditional definition of marriage."

Conservative activist Eric Miller, who is also seeking the GOP nomination for governor, said an amendment was needed at both the state and federal level.

But banning same-sex marriage doesn't seem to be a top priority for some lawmakers.

"It's not a major issue that I've heard of," said House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend). "If the people in Washington want to create issues, they can do that. We don't need to create issues. We have enough issues as it is." ▶



Ohio Governor Bob Taft

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Kicked out

◀ page 1

ies from Project Open Hand when the door was closed, but often the building residents left the front door open for convenience, he said, allowing nearby drug dealers access to the property. Furthermore, a sign located in the building informed residents — many of whom have HIV/AIDS — that the area contained chemicals known to cause cancer.

Nevertheless, Oliver was "so grateful" to have a home, he said, and he did not complain until he witnessed what he said was a drug relapse by his former roommate, during which time Oliver lived "in fear," urinating in a bucket by his bed to avoid walking through his home, and sleeping in his boots in case he had to make an emergency exit. He was told his only recourse at the time was to call 911 or page a case manager if he felt he was in danger.

Baker Places did not help his roommate get into detox, he said, and he was encouraged by a case manager to file a grievance for the agency's inaction.

Oliver's grievance to Baker Places was dated November 12, 2003, in which he detailed all of the disturbances he had endured since April. He also filed a grievance with the San Francisco Department of Public Health because Baker Places receives Ryan White CARE funding.

In a letter dated January 5, 2004, Baker Places Program Director Trevor Hogan responded to Oliver, stating, "While Baker Places Inc. will concur with your reports that the property ... had been in need of repair ... and that

there may have been some stains set in the carpet, we find it highly unlikely that these were due to blood feces or urine. Case managers are required to report any such spillage to be cleaned up immediately by professionals as per universal precautions."

Hogan went on to state Baker Places' unhappiness with the property management company at the building, in reference to the broken door entry system. He also said that toxin notices like the one in Oliver's building "are being put up by most landlords of older buildings, as they have to alert residents of possible toxins such as lead paint and asbestos, both of which were used in construction when these buildings were erected. I don't know whether these substances were used in your apartment."

Hogan also said that the agency handled the gun situation and the roommate situation adequately.

"You found a gun under your bed. Your case manager collected the gun and brought it to her supervisor. The gun was taken to the police station the same day by the program director. We had considered the issue closed as of that day and saw no need for further reporting," stated Hogan.

"Regarding the roommate situation. We were fully aware of the problems that the clients had been having in regard to substance abuse and unauthorized guests, in part thanks to your communication. It was unfortunate you had to experience such a hellacious time with them," said Hogan's letter.

"We do appreciate all your efforts to inform us of the problems as they arose and your patience and attempts to assist some of your housemates. While it did not

appear to you that we were addressing these issues I can assure that we were taking the situations very seriously and were working to address the ongoing drug use in the house. Our interventions may have appeared futile to you, they were however, successful over time."

Hogan's letter went on to state that existing tenancy laws make it difficult to deal with longer-term program residents who start using drugs and are in need of detox shelter. "Often, the client is allowed to remain in the program until a bed becomes available," said Hogan. "We feel this poses less risk to the client who would otherwise be on the streets."

Oliver now faces the streets himself, as his emergency move to his boyfriend's small apartment is not feasible, nor looked upon favorably by his boyfriend's landlord, he said.

Oliver has since filed several grievances with public departments to avoid losing his home. Many commissioners and department heads seem to believe he may be the victim of retaliation, he said, but they do not appear to be equipped to address such violations. Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who received a package of information from Oliver, did tell the Bay Area Reporter that he was monitoring the case and waiting for more information.

Although it is illegal for an agency to retaliate against clients who file grievances, Oliver said the sequence of events seem to add up to revenge; in his letter to several governmental departments he said he believes that his grievance with San Francisco's DPH led to a building inspection that in turn prompted Baker Places to vacate the address.

At press time, DPH said there was no record within its health inspection department of any such building inspection. While confidentiality laws require that DPH cannot acknowledge its communication with Oliver, the B.A.R. does have a letter from DPH acknowledging receipt of his grievance which is dated November 13 and is copied to Baker Places.

On December 3, Oliver said he had a conversation with Renata Kamieniecki, Baker Places clinical supervisor, who informed him "that Baker Places would vacate [Oliver's building] as a result of the inspection conducted ... on 11/21/2003."

"She, at that time, informed me it was my responsibility to find my own housing and the only assistance Baker Places Inc. could offer me was the use of the company computer to place an ad on Craigslist. She also offered her 'emotional support' until my departure on February 1, 2004," stated Oliver's most recent complaint.

Again, while the B.A.R. could not confirm an inspection or what information was given to Oliver about the reason for the agency's vacating the building, there is written correspondence from Baker Places that at least acknowledges a conversation took place on that day.

"Further to our conversation on December 3, 2003, I am sending you this letter as a reminder that Baker Places Inc. is vacating the premises at [Oliver's building] and you will be required to secure alternate housing and vacate by February 1, 2004," stated a December 23 letter from Kamieniecki to Oliver.

Mediation

Baker Places staff members named in this article said they could not comment on the case, and instead referred all calls to Judith Stevenson, director of operations.

Citing confidentiality concerns, Stevenson could not comment on Oliver or his grievances, but she did outline some general procedures and addressed the decisions about the building in question.

The building in question, said Stevenson "is an address we have been at for a long time," and vacating usually is due to finding a building that is in better shape with lower rents.

There could many reasons a person would not be placed in new housing once their building was vacated, she said, including program length and client need. But leaving the building in question "had nothing to do with clients' behaviors. It's been in the works for six or seven months."

Although Baker Places generally generates a referral list, and our case managers do everything they can do, to help someone find new housing, she said, "housing is in short supply for all San Franciscans. And it is even harder for

people to come by when they are in a treatment system."

Graduated?

Richard Bargetto is the director of the city's HIV Consumer Rights Advocacy Project, and as such, mediates issues between clients and nonprofit agencies funded by CARE dollars.

Bargetto, who was given permission by Oliver to speak with the B.A.R., said he met with Baker Places representatives on Monday, January 26, but was unable to extend Oliver's housing.

It appears that Baker Places' position on Oliver, he said, is that "he's graduating from the program," and that other residents of his building are getting new housing placements "because they are entering, or still new to the program."

Baker Places staff members "were under the impression he wanted to leave anyway. They had documented communications that he wanted to leave since last fall, and they were actually surprised he wanted to stay."

Last fall is precisely when Oliver filed his grievances addressing his unsuitable living environment.

At this point, said Oliver, it is true that he has no desire to stay in a Baker Places program. But he feels that being "a model client" worked to his disadvantage, and Bargetto agrees.

Regardless of the validity of Oliver's allegations against Baker Places, there is a paradox to treatment funding priorities that means clients enrolled in supported living services "almost have an incentive to relapse if they want to keep their housing," according to Bargetto.

FEbruary EVENTS

A Month of LOVE at the Stop AIDS Project

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STOP AIDS PROJECT

Antioch murder

◀ page 1

was found with one gunshot wound to the head and his wife and his son were shot multiple times, police said.

Gary Armstrong, 48, had been married to his wife for 29 years and worked for a glass container factory for 22 years before the business closed, Pico told the *Contra Costa Times*.

But Alfred told the B.A.R. that Gary Armstrong left his job on a disability because he suffered from bipolar disorder. Alfred added that he thinks the crime was most like-

ly an accumulation of a number of things stemming from Gary Armstrong's illness.

Myrick said that the elder Armstrong had been on disability for bipolar illness during the five to six years that he's known his son. Myrick added that Chris moved back home a year or two ago after losing his job with Cingular Wireless.

"He didn't like living there," Myrick said, adding that his friend didn't talk much about his family life.

Myrick said his friend will leave a lasting positive impression on him.

next page ▶

Kerry wins New Hampshire primary

United Press International

Massachusetts Senator John Kerry took a clear win in New Hampshire while Howard Dean appeared to stay in the race by coming in second in the first-in-the-nation primary January 27 for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Unofficial returns showed Kerry pulling 39 percent of the vote, while Dean garnered 26 percent.

Third place was a tie between retired General Wesley Clark and North Carolina Senator John Edwards, who each received 12 percent of the vote, preliminary returns showed. Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman was far behind with 9 percent, although he told CNN Tuesday night that he's in a "virtual tie for third place" with Clark and Edwards.

It was Kerry's second win in eight days, following his strong first-place finish in the Iowa caucuses January 19.

Kerry thanked his supporters



John Kerry

Rick Gerhardt

Tuesday night after all the TV and cable news networks named him as the strong front-runner.

"I love New Hampshire," Kerry told his supporters. America, he said, "belongs to all Americans."

In exit polls, many people said they voted for Kerry because they believe he can beat President Bush in November.

Dean gave a subdued speech to supporters, vowing to continue the

campaign as it shifts from the retail politics of Iowa and New Hampshire to the national level. Seven states hold primaries or caucuses next week, with several more states holding primaries throughout the month, leading up to Super Tuesday on March 2 when California, New York, and several other states hold their contests.

Edwards said, "This process is going to go on for a while ... and I intend to be the nominee."

Staff with the Lieberman campaign denied reports he is considering dropping out of the race.

Trailing far behind were the Reverend Al Sharpton and Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich.

Sharpton, however, is expected to have an impact in the South Carolina primary that takes place February 3. Political observers said that about half of the voters there are expected to be African American.

Missouri also holds its primary February 3, and is considered wide open since Congressman Richard Gephardt, a native son, dropped out of the presidential contest January 20, one day after his disappointing fourth-place finish in the Iowa caucuses.

Just two weeks ago polls had shown Kerry well behind Dean in New Hampshire. But after his third-place finish in Iowa, the Dean staff was saying his second-place ranking in New Hampshire is a comeback. ▼

said she would rather see the states deal with the issue than the national government.

"A constitutional amendment is not my first choice. It is not something I like to play around with," said England, the program director for the Capitol Resource Institute, a pro-family group based in Sacramento. "But I would support a constitutional amendment if all else fails."

Not all conservatives agree, however, that gays should be denied marriage rights. A man in the audience who identified himself as being a conservative, said he supports gay marriage. Though he said he would rather see such issues dealt with by lawmakers and not judges.

"I would rather live in a society where gays can marry than say in Holland where almost no one marries," said the man, who did not identify himself.

When told of Foreman's remarks by a reporter, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) said he disagreed and maintained that in the end, the LGBT community will win the battle for marriage rights.

Leno said many legal scholars "rate the likelihood of an amendment to the U.S. constitution to discriminate against gay and lesbian couples as low."

Though Leno did concede "it is an enormous threat. We will fight it at the national level and state by state."

California could become the first state to authorize gay marriage.

page 19 ►

Marriage fight

◀ page 1

same-sex couples win the right to marry.

Looking at polls on the issue, Coles noted that despite headlines declaring a majority of Americans are against gay marriage, it is really only one-third of people asked who say they oppose it. Another third of people say they are in support and the final third are conflicted by the issue.

Christopher Carrington, a sociology professor at SFSU who is gay and studies gay couples, said not everyone in the gay community wants marriage rights.

"As I look out there at the research, gay and lesbian people out there are ambiguous about this at best," Carrington told the more than 100 people in the audience. "I am not convinced marriage is the way to the promised land."

Instead, Carrington argued the rights and privileges awarded to people who marry should be distributed to all individuals in society.

"I think marriage consists of a constellation of legal rights and prerogatives. We need to disentangle all those things, break them out of marriage and assign them to individuals," he argued.

Even the conservative member of the panel, Karen England, said she does not necessarily support a constitutional amendment. Though she argues marriage should remain a union solely between a man and a woman, she

Antioch murder

◀ previous page

"He taught me a lot about life and friendship. He taught me a lot about being my own person. He was a true friend. I loved him."

Myrick said he and Chris Armstrong were Catholics and that the faith has helped him cope with the loss of his friend.

"In our faith, the next world is a much better place. That's what I've been taught and that's what I firmly believe. He's safe now. I

know he's happy. That helps me cope," he said.

A funeral Mass for Mary and Christopher Armstrong will be held today (Thursday, January 29) at Church of the Good Shepherd 3200 Harbor Street in Pittsburg at 1:30 p.m. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Antioch. Burial for Gary Armstrong will be at Memory Gardens in Concord.

A memorial fund has been set up at the Bank of the West, 8157 Brentwood Boulevard, Brentwood, CA 94513, c/o the Armstrong Family #173283045-SV. ▼

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Black gay man fights the power

by Eric Ganther

Who: Bill Barnes
What: Aide to Supervisor Chris Daly
Where: San Francisco's District 6
Contact: bill.barnes@sfgov.org

Since Harvey Milk blazed a trail in the 1970s, hundreds of queers have been elected to office across the country – usually with the help of progressives. Today, the LGBT community continues to vote for progressive candidates (many gay neighborhoods went for Matt Gonzalez in the recent mayoral election, for example) because we can identify with the plight of the outsider and see the value of social justice. In spite of gentrification, San Francisco continues to attract young creative progressives, who are picking up the torch and lighting the way for the next generation. One such progressive politico is Bill Barnes: African American gay man, avid snowboarder, and potentially San Francisco's first openly HIV-positive supervisor.

How old are you and how long have you been a supervisor's aide?

I'm 26, and for three years I've been a legislative aide to Chris Daly, supervisor for District 6 (the Tenderloin, Civic Center, and South of Market).

What do supervisor's aides do?

A big part of what I do is getting people to reach agreement – like the Department of Public Works, PG&E, the nonprofit group Habitat for Humanity – all of whom were involved in a housing project for homeless people. I record what they agree to and follow up to make sure they're doing what they say they're going to do.

On the legislative side, I help the supervisor write rules that help the average citizen, like graduating restaurants by how clean their

kitchens are – like they do in Los Angeles – so people have confidence when they eat out. Basic quality of life stuff. Since Chris Daly is the head of the Budget Committee, I spend a lot of time reviewing leases and contracts, and overseeing the process of putting together a \$4.9 billion budget.

How did you get started?

I've always been interested in politics; in the early 1990s, when I was in high school in New York City, I got involved with ACT UP. I helped Geraldine Ferraro's failed campaign for Senate in 1992 and worked a bit on the Clinton campaign. Then, in 1996, I signed up for the Human Rights Campaign's Youth College and learned about campaign strategies. That landed me a job on Capitol Hill working with a representative from Oregon. While

in D.C., I heard Nancy Pelosi give an impassioned speech defending HIV-positive people's privacy. I thought she must come from a really cool district, so I moved to San Francisco.

In 1998, as a result of my activism, Dick Pabich, then-Mayor Brown's point man on AIDS, asked me to come help him out. I learned a lot from him including that when you have real-time access to decision makers, you can make a difference. When Dick got sick again, the mayor appointed me to his position as policy adviser on AIDS and HIV [commonly known as the AIDS czar], where I worked for a year working with committed people like Carole Migden and Eileen Hansen to block names-reporting for people with HIV.

When Dick Pabich died, I was devastated. He had really been a mentor to me and taught me a lot about politics and the city. To get

out of "AIDS land" for a while, I worked with the Neighborhood Parks Council where I met Chris Daly, who was running for district supervisor. We clicked and he hired me to run his campaign, and we won the runoff 80 percent to 20 percent.

What do you love about politics?

I like creating balance and advocating for folks – making the government responsible to the people. I especially enjoy working with Chris Daly when he goes into the big corporate offices, people who are used to getting what they want, and tells them they can't just do anything that profits them.

I also love the activism. I just went to a demonstration against Governor Schwarzenegger's attempt to cap spending on HIV meds for poor people (the AIDS Drug Assistance Program). Basically a new person will be able to get meds only when someone else in the program dies. Direct activism works. It has to.

What drives you crazy about politics?

City Hall tends to attract people who feel they can call up and be abusive or say things that are untrue – like that tiny group of folks at ACT UP/San Francisco. And then there's the corruption of big corporations like Bechtel charging the city for work that city employees did. Also, politics is competitive and sometimes the backbiting and legislation-stealing can poison relationships between people on the same side, leaving an opportunity for, in this case conservatives pushing for a downtown agenda, to take advantage of the situation.

As a progressive Democrat, what do you think of the Greens?

The Greens are well-intentioned, but not really connected to a viable national movement. What we need is a local progressive party that's just concerned with local issues – it's what Chris Daly, Matt Gonzalez, Tom Ammiano, etc. are talking about now.

What does a legislative aide do in situations like the one where Chris Daly, as acting mayor for a day, made two Public Utilities Commission, and outraged the establishment?

It was an international story and we probably could have handled the media better. But Chris was trying to make the point that there are qualified people to appoint who don't just work for the "culture of corruption." It was Chris Daly, legally appointing qualified people; versus Mayor Brown, selling the appointment to a campaign contributor. I liked that Supervisor Daly's appointments changed the nature of the mayoral election – suddenly Gavin Newsom was talking about government reform!

Do you need a special education to be a supervisor's aide?

I have no formal education beyond high school; Chris Daly didn't finish his undergraduate work at Duke; and we're both at City Hall shaking stuff up. I'm a Head Start success: I finished high school two years early! But I have lots of experience working on campaigns, where you get to meet lots of people, and do really im-



How does being gay affect your political outlook?

The new progressive leadership in town is very heterosexual – it's racially and economically diverse, but there aren't as many LGBT folks. There are four districts that a gay progressive could win: District 8: the Castro and Noe Valley; District 5: the Haight and Western Addition; District 6: SOMA and the Tenderloin; and District 9: Outer Mission and Bernal Heights. In other districts a gay person could run without too many problems, but he or she would probably be a conservative.

How does being gay affect and inform how you work?

Most of the people I trust and work with are straight. In San Francisco, people my age who are straight, are progressive: they all support gay marriage (if it's bad enough for us, we'll inflict it on you!). I'm a pretty regular guy, though. Gay isn't really a defining issue anymore – everybody accepts us here. So I find myself having to remember to bring up the queer stuff and keep it on the progressive agenda.

Does your gayness manifest in any other way besides sex?

I think it makes me value people who are different. There's a default in politics to be like other people – be mainstream, be acceptable. District 6 is a really diverse place and being gay makes

I find myself having to remember to bring up the queer stuff and keep it on the progressive agenda.

How do you deal with stress?

There's a tremendous amount of stress in politics. I go bowling at the Presidio or down at Yerba Buena. I snowboard (I went to a gay snowboard thing in Colorado and was hooked. It's hard to think about anything when you're barreling down a hill!) I love going to sporting events like the Giants or USF sports teams – I had always wanted to be a sportscaster.

Do you have a partner?

I'm single and don't have a kid or a dog. I had a partner, Darrell, who moved back to the Navajo Reservation to be president of the Native American AIDS Project. He doesn't like politics very much. He also doesn't like Willie Brown very much. And I was working for the mayor as his AIDS czar and it became very difficult. I've been more reticent about involving somebody in my life because it's so stressful. I want somebody interested in what I do, but who isn't a social climber.

Do you want to be supervisor someday? Mayor? Governor?

I'm on the Democratic County Central Committee, as the only African American man. I will be running for re-election in March. As far as being a supervisor, well, we've never had an out HIV-positive supervisor in San Francisco. A lot of gay men like Dick Pabich, who would have been the next generation of leaders, have died. I enjoy campaigns but I don't have to be the first HIV-positive supervisor or anything. I don't see an opportunity for four years, and who knows where I'll be in four years.

me know that being outside the norm can be difficult, whether it's having a physical disability, a different gender identity, etc. I try to help everybody who calls up, but I get that extra "oomph" when somebody calls up and says they're transgender, or poor, and that they were treated badly by some city department.

Compare and contrast your gay and African American perspectives.

The thing I love most about my generation is that there are so many more of us that are multiracial: my mom is German and Polish and my dad is black. I identify as black because that's how people see me. And being black, you have more experiences of race at an earlier age. Comparing that experience with being gay, I like what Carol Moseley Braun [former Democratic candidate for president], said about gay civil unions: when you call it civil unions or domestic partnerships, it's like what they called unions of black and white in the 1950s – miscegenation. They made up a word that says when black and white people hook up it's not as good as regular marriage.

Thanks for taking the torch, Bill. I look forward to voting for you someday. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.

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Local groups to host volunteer trainings

by Cynthia Laird

A couple of local nonprofit organizations are looking for volunteers and will hold trainings early next month.

Volunteers are needed for the San Francisco Suicide Prevention's AIDS/HIV and hepatitis C Nightline, and a volunteer training is set for February 5. The nightline provides telephone emotional support, crisis counseling, and basic information to anyone with HIV or hepatitis C concerns.

The nightline is the only volunteer service of its kind in the

country, and volunteers answer more than 900 calls a month, from the worried well to the sick. The nightline serves callers across the country, as well as those in the Bay Area.

Volunteers are asked to work a few nighttime or evening hours a week.

For more information, potential volunteers should call (415) 984-1902 day or night.

The nightline number for those seeking help is (415) 434-AIDS or 1-800-273-AIDS.

UCSF-AHP

The University of California,

San Francisco AIDS Health Project's REACH program is offering a free weekend training on group facilitation skills February 6-8 for potential volunteers.

The training focuses on the fundamentals needed for people to serve as HIV prevention group facilitators, including listening skills and learning how to create an emotionally "safe" environment. Volunteer facilitators then apply their skills in REACH prevention groups that consist of 14-week support sessions and monthly workshops. Topics discussed in REACH groups include: connecting with others, talking

about HIV risks, and building relationships.

"The issues that are addressed in our support groups enable participants to stay focused on their health and well-being. Support and information sharing makes a real difference and these groups are a key part of our HIV prevention efforts," said Michael DiSopola, coordinator of the REACH program.

REACH runs groups specifically for people who are HIV-negative or untested, as well as programs for people regardless of their HIV status.

In addition to the training, vol-

unteers must commit to 10-12 hours per month. A general sensitivity to HIV-related issues is required; group experience is helpful, but not necessary.

For a training application, or to learn more about the training, AHP prevention programs, or facilitating groups for people with HIV, contact John Tighe at (415) 502-7579. AHP, located at 1930 Market Street, provides individual counseling, crisis intervention, trainings, and publications on the psychosocial aspects of HIV disease. For more information, visit www.ucsf-ahp.org. ▼

Internet murder trial postponed

by Ed Walsh

The trial of a 24-year-old East Bay man accused of murdering a man he met over the Internet has been postponed until March 8.

Brian Misquez was scheduled to stand trial on January 20 for the stabbing death of Rogelio DeChavez, 22. The trial was postponed because several witnesses were unavailable to testify. Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Paul Graves told the Bay

Area Reporter that the trial could be postponed again until April because DeChavez's family may not be able to attend the trial in March.

In July 2001, DeChavez was found dead in his El Cerrito apartment hours after he agreed

to meet Misquez. Days after the killing, Misquez moved with his girlfriend and the couple's baby son and newborn daughter to his girlfriend's mother's house in Oregon. He was arrested there and eventually taken back to Contra Costa County where he has been in jail since. He has pleaded not guilty.

According to court documents, Misquez confessed to police that he killed DeChavez but he said he is straight and acted in self-defense to prevent DeChavez from sexually assaulting him. That story

fell apart after police obtained a copy of his Internet chat that DeChavez saved on his computer. In the chat, Misquez turned the conversation toward sex and the pair agreed to meet the following morning. The chat also made reference to a previous sexual encounter between the two.

There is no mention in the court documents of the Internet site where the men first met but their last chat was conducted through Yahoo, possibly in a private chat room or through instant messaging. ▼

Safeway demo

◀ page 3

livered a blow to her face with his fist.

LaRiva became exasperated when the B.A.R. told her of the allegations of homophobia, stating, "no one can accuse me of that; no fucking way. I'm a strong believer in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights, and the issue here is that a man – who I did not even know was gay – spit in my face and slugged me because I asked him not to shop at Safeway."

Privately, many activists told the B.A.R. that when large groups of people who are not necessarily affiliated come together in support of a cause, there is a potential for conflict. Saturday's demonstration included many LGBT and gay-friendly labor activists, as well as many people who joined the open call to support the union who may or may not have LGBT allegiances.

LaRiva, while steadfastly affirming her support for LGBT equality, also told the B.A.R. that she has no idea, nor can she be held accountable, for what other angry protesters may have said to Wells and his companions.

As someone with a foot in both camps, activist Howard Wallace, of the gay labor organization Pride At Work, emphasized that whatever occurred at the demonstration should not be characterized as a "gay versus labor" sentiment, but rather examined for all of its complexities.

Wallace was unfamiliar with the specific incident involving Wells, but said that future protests should be more careful to address LGBT concerns. On the other hand, said Wallace, labor issues should be of great concern to the LGBT community, particularly when it comes to healthcare.

"There are 70,000 workers out there fighting for their living standard," said Wallace. "People should stay out of that store."

Wallace also noted that when tensions soar, "people will call each other anything: 'whores,' 'pigs,' 'fags,' whatever; this incident seems no different than a thousand other incidents that

have nothing to do with sex. When people are mad enough, they will find the words that will sting."

Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, said that while he had heard of the incident, he considered it "minor," and that there was "nothing out of hand; the cops were very pleased by the behavior; it was carried out in a noisy, but peaceful manner."

Staff at the Castro area Safeway store did not return calls seeking comment, but like many Northern California Safeways, the store has gone to great lengths to explain to shoppers that its workers are not on strike and that pickets outside its store are Southern California Safeway workers. Wallace and others, however, noted that Northern California's Safeway contracts come up for renewal within a few years, at which time local workers may face the same plight.

"This is a huge chain, and they can afford to pay healthcare benefits," said Wallace. "We can't afford to allow that not to happen. This is a very good struggle with a lot of lesbians and gays involved in the picket line."

Wells acknowledges that many of his alleged attackers appeared to have come from outside the union, and he said he sympathizes with the fight for healthcare.

"Medical insurance is a real problem; my copays have recently doubled and I can feel for these people," said Wells. "However, I do hold the union responsible for their event. There was no one there to supervise these people."

"I went in there to get a little money and pick up some food. Their sole purpose was to get people not to shop at Safeway," said Wells, who said he continues to fear for his safety based on Saturday's incident. "Well, they did it. I can't go back there now." ▼

BIRTHS

It's twins for these dads!

Sieple-Margulies

Noah Frank Sieple-Margulies (birth weight 5 lbs., 2 oz.) and Adam Joseph Sieple-Margulies (birth weight 6 lbs.) were born January 9. The proud dads are Frank Sieple and Joshua Margulies. Sieple and Margulies have been together 13 years and are longtime San Francisco residents. ▼



Editor's note: The Bay Area Reporter received an announcement last week from brand new parents Frank Sieple and Joshua Margulies, who asked if the paper would acknowledge the births of their twin boys, since the paper runs announcements of domestic partner ceremonies, Vermont civil unions, and obituaries. We're happy to oblige.

Readers who are new parents are invited to submit a photo of their newborns and other relevant information for publication. Please call (415) 861-5019 or e-mail BARpaper@aol.com and include a daytime phone number for verification purposes only.

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Oar well

by Jim Provenzano

f gliding over lake water while getting a full body workout sounds great, then be sure to stop by the San Francisco Bay Blades Rowing Club's open house this Sunday, February 1 at Lake Merritt's Boating Club in Oakland.

Blades members are also promoting their participation in the recently formed Gay & Lesbian Rowing Federation.

GLRF is an umbrella organization representing the interests of gay and lesbian rowers worldwide. Its mission is to provide a sense of community, to promote the sport of rowing, to act as a central resource for rowing clubs and individual rowers, to support rowers facing homophobia, and to serve as liaison to national and international rowing governing bodies and the Federation of Gay Games.

With member clubs nationwide (Austin, Boston, Dallas,) and throughout the world (Copenhagen, Montreal, Vancouver, Berlin, London, Amsterdam), GLRF already has regattas planned over the next months and years to come, in several cities.

The San Francisco Bay Blades is Northern California's only LGBT rowing club. Like many gay and lesbian-inclusive clubs, Blades' members are also part of another club. For the Blades, Lake Merritt's club provides access to facilities in Oakland.

The Blades saw a growth period building up to, and after, its success at Gay Games V in 1998. With Sydney's Games VI not including rowing in its events, many crew enthusiasts sought to continue organizing as a sport, to make their case for inclusion as a core sport more of a possibility. Events include four-person and person-on-person, men's, women's, and mixed events.

Both Montreal 2006, and the bid for Chicago's Gay games VII will include rowing. But this isn't the only event for the many clubs. Several regattas are planned before then, from local events to nationally recognized competitions.

Hizam Haron, the SF Blade's publicity rep, said that GLRF has been in the works for several years, mostly spearheaded by Los Angeles rower Brian Todd.

"We've been forming our own yearly schedule for a while now," said Haron. Some of those events include the Stonewall Regatta, held by the DC Strokes, of Wash-

ington, D.C., during that city's Pride weekend.

The Boston Bay Blades always have an open invite for rowers who watch the popular Head of the Charles race.

Despite its having broken down certain elitist stereotypes, the sport of rowing does have Ivy League roots, and British ones before that.

Haron said he got involved in rowing through his partner, Jeff, who is a member. Now he's one of many active rowers.

"I was the secretary, now I'm primarily about marketing," said the graphic designer. "This is a natural step for me."

The club practices Sunday afternoons, and Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The schedule is flexible for those who want to merely give rowing a once a week try, or get serious about competing and training.

"We are open to everybody in their height and weight, too," said Haron. "It's primarily a fun club, but it is a club sport. It's difficult for all members to participate in all the races. Some members row only on Sundays. Other want to compete, and they go to regattas. Other members can cheer them on."

And cheer they do, as the Blades have medaled at a few events, and attend clinics, like those hosted by Row Team Austin. The upcoming President's Day weekend provides training and tips with national level coaches, and some social events for club members.

"Most of our competitions are regular regattas in the Bay Area," said Haron.

The schedule varies, with summer sprint races of up to 1,000 meters at the Gold Rush Regatta in Sacramento, autumn races up to 6,000 kilometers, and the U.S. Rowing Nationals in Lake Natoma, "the best rowing site in the Bay," Haron added.

Locally, the Lake Merritt Sprints in the first week of August will be part of the Blades' schedule.

Lakers

This Sunday's orientation is open to anybody. "We'll show the basic equipment to people not familiar with the sport," said Haron. "You will get to get into the boat, handle the oars, learn about sculling, and watch a video of the Sydney Olympic Games."

Haron hopes those interested will get to "physically experience the lifestyle," and consider the full

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Courtesy Bay Blades

Merritt badge: Bay Blades members take the lake.

body workout, as well as team efforts it inspires.

If it isn't completely obvious to tell which boats lesbian or gay athletes oar, they're there.

"It's more about integration within the larger sports community," said Haron. "We're very open with our visibility in the regattas. We don't wear rainbow flags, but people are familiar with the Blades being a gay and lesbian club. Even at a race where we won, a lot of people were surprised to see a gay club win a medal."

Haron mentioned some students who he said had contacted them. "I'd heard of homophobia in college communities," he said. "They're glad there is a gay and lesbian group out there."

Like other clubs around the world, Blades competitors hope to compete at Gay Games VII, which will most likely be held in July 2006 in Chicago. Montreal 2006's alternative event likely will be scheduled for early August 2006.

"We want to support all sports organizations that have rowing in them."

Other rowing events this year are in Austin (February 13), Miami (March), San Diego (April), Washington D.C. (June), and at Munich's EuroGames in July.

For more info, e-mail Haron at hizam@mindspring.com, call (415) 285-1202, or visit www.sfbayblades.org or www.glrif.info.

Florida evolves

Andrea Zimbardi has just helped make collegiate lesbian sports history. The former catcher for the University of Florida's varsity women's softball team was released from the team shortly after alleging sexual orientation discrimination.

It was announced Tuesday, January 27 that the university and Zimbardi have reached an agreement that includes policy changes and a model training program to educate students and faculty about harassment and discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students and athletes.

Zimbardi was represented by the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights, the legal advocacy organization that has a special project focused on providing assistance to athletes who face discrimination because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

As part of the agreement, UF will provide training to combat homophobia in sports to its entire athletic department, including athletic directors, coaches, and staff.

Helen Carroll, NCLR's homophobia in sports coordinator and the esteemed former women's basketball coach at Oakland's Mills College, will coordinate the training.

"I am thrilled that we have

reached an agreement that will enable us to put this all behind us," said Zimbardi in a statement.

"My goal from the very beginning has been to help ensure that other gay and lesbian athletes at UF feel welcome, accepted, and judged solely on their talent. I love UF and am more proud than ever to be a Gator."

"I am really impressed with how the university has addressed this situation," said NCLR staff attorney Karen Doering. "UF has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that all student athletes are treated fairly. Its new policies and training program are a model for other universities on how to effectively address allegations of homophobia and help prevent such incidents from occurring."

Author Pat Griffin, who helped conduct the first phase of the training, commented, "I was impressed by how willing the coaches were to engage and really talk about these difficult issues – this was clearly a group of coaches who cared about their athletes and were interested in making athletics accessible for everyone."

In addition to training, the university will include a sexual orientation component in its annual nondiscrimination staff training. It will also amend its nondiscrimination materials to include sexual orientation.

Along with other steps to address homophobia in athletics, the UF representatives will submit an application to the NCAA for restoration of Zimbardi's final year of eligibility; and pay for Zimbardi's master's degree studies at the university.

"This agreement is a real win-win scenario," said NCLR's Carroll. "I believe this top-rated athletic program will be even better as a result of this agreement."

This is the third student discrimination case that NCLR has settled in the past three months.

On April 24, former Minnesota Vikings lineman Esera Tuaolo will present Zimbardi with a Justice Award at NCLR's 27th annual gala, to be held in San Francisco.

For more information about the award or event, see www.nclrights.org.

Puckish

You don't have to be John Kerry to like hockey, although Kerry, the Massachusetts senator running for the Democratic presidential nomination, put in a fine showing playing hockey at a January 24 food drive benefit in Manchester, New Hampshire during the just-concluded primary campaign.

Wearing a University of New Hampshire jersey with the number "04" on it, Kerry skated onto the ice to join former Boston Bruins great Ray Bourque and Cam Neely.

Local hockey fans can catch the last of the SF Quakes games

tonight (Thursday, January 29) at Yerba Buena Ice Rink, in downtown San Francisco. The game starts at 8 p.m.

You can also watch the Oakland Quakes on Sunday, February 1 at 6:45 p.m. at the Oakland Ice Center in downtown Oakland.

Check www.squakes.com for scheduling, info, etc.

Air waves

You won't be seeing Moveon.org's anti-Bush ads during the CBS broadcast of the Super Bowl this Sunday. But you will see some rather expensive AIDS awareness ads.

The yearlong campaign will be launched on television during the Super Bowl pre-game show on February 1.

Called Know HIV/AIDS, sponsored by Viacom and the Kaiser Family Foundation, it includes media placements valued at \$200 million.

Croat's enough

Otto Baric, the Croatian national soccer team's 71-year-old coach, said he could never work with a team that includes a gay player, because he felt it was wrong.

"There is no place for homosexuals in my team. Homosexuality is not good," he said in an interview earlier this month.

The comments have outraged the country's gay residents, who say they will now switch allegiance to the UK team, when they play Croatia in June.

Gay soccer fans in Croatia have pledged to support England in the upcoming Euro 2004 games. Baric's comments were published in a recent newspaper interview.

"We want Croatian football chiefs to do something," gay rights spokesman Anto Tomic told the UK newspaper the Sun.

Meanwhile, on Mars

Writing for the Nation, Jacob Sullum noted the bizarre tangent George W. Bush made in the avoidance-laden speech scripted for his State of the Union address. Cutie quarterback Tom Brady was present at the event, for some apparent reason.

"Safety was not the only issue the president raised," Sullum noted. "He also said using performance-enhancing drugs 'sends the wrong message: that there are shortcuts to accomplishment, and that performance is more important than character.'

"A man who owes so much to inherited wealth and his family's political connections probably should not broach the topic of 'shortcuts to accomplishment'." ▼

For a shortcut to my accomplishments, visit www.sportscomplex.org, a 'roid-free realm.

CLASSIFIEDS

AIDS Quilt

◀ page 5

the quilt in Washington, D.C. in 2004 as a kickoff effort to bring the quilt in its entirety to the Mall within two to five years. He did not disclose when the display would occur.

The foundation's spokeswoman, Janece Shaffer, did not return calls seeking comment.

SF presence?

As for renewing the quilt's presence in San Francisco, where Jones stitched together the first panel in 1986 and officially formed the Names Project in 1987, foundation officials claim they are currently working to launch a fundraising effort to secure the necessary capital to open a site in San Francisco that will include a Names Project workshop, display center, and visitors center for the region.

According to the foundation's statement, this effort will be spearheaded by a task force that includes staff, board members, and volunteers of the foundation. However, there is no indication of when such a task force will be formed and how soon such a center would open in San Francisco.

Jones said that over a year ago local officials offered the foundation assistance in such a project but the board did not move on it.

"It is interesting that now they claim they are making progress. I see no progress being made at all," he said.

Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention, said he is willing to offer whatever he can do to help the foundation display the quilt as often as possible, especially in the Midwest, Northeast and South, where HIV rates are especially high among youth.

"I think he is absolutely correct," said Tierney of Jones's argument that the quilt needs to be displayed more. "Lots of people who have not been directly impacted by AIDS

can see the size and scope this disease had on a community. It can be a very powerful, moving tool."

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) said displaying the quilt on the Mall this October would be an especially opportune time to focus the nation's attention not only on the fact that AIDS is still devastating the country, but on which presidential candidate can best lead the fight against the epidemic.

"His political acumen and instincts are, as always, on the mark," said Leno of Jones's desire to display the quilt this fall.

As for the board's actions, Leno said, "If indeed it is confirmed there has been a threat to his life-sustaining healthcare as a result of this disagreement, it would be nothing short of shameful."

In response to contentions that he needs to be reigned in, Jones said, "I don't need reigning in. What they need to be doing is working harder. When is somebody going to notice that this same little group in the last seven years has been unable to move the Names Project out of debt? This is not about me."

Project officials did not comment on their financial position in their statement. They did report that since moving to Atlanta the project has managed a 13,000 square foot renovation, has added nearly 1,000 new panels to the quilt and has tripled the number of displays presented annually across the country.

In the statement, Rho said, "Over its history, the AIDS Memorial Quilt has been used to fight prejudice, raise awareness and funding, as a means to link hands with the global community in the fight against HIV and AIDS, and as an effective tool in HIV/AIDS prevention education. Today we continue to be there where AIDS is at hand, doing all that we can to curb the tide of new infections, to educate our youth and to share the quilt's message of hope, healing and compassion." ▼

need to come together and focus our resources on individual state battles. To date, we have done a very poor job of that," he said. "People need to understand we are so weak in so many places across this country."

Pointing to the failure of California's LGBT community to defeat the antigay Proposition 22 four years ago, Foreman said the LGBT movement has yet to defeat any statewide antigay marriage amendment initiative.

"We were creamed [in California] and this is the best organized, best financed, most sophisticated LGBT community in the country," said Foreman. "It is a great relief we are not facing a referendum or repeal of AB205."

AB205, which will extend nearly all the rights married couples receive to domestic partners, will become law on January 1, 2005. Conservative lawmakers have filed suit in court that the bill violates Proposition 22 but their challenge is likely to fail, say gay rights leaders. Foreman said the inability of antigay groups to qualify a referendum on the bill is a tremendous relief and allows focus to be placed on other battles.

"California is so important, it would have required us all to pitch in and save AB205. Now we can divert resources and raise resources to beat back challenges in other states," said Foreman. "All politics is local. Our response has to be tailored to each state."

Yet Foreman said the gay community as a whole is weak and drastically underfunded and out-staffed compared to conservative and right-wing groups.

"We as a national movement

BAY AREA REPORTER
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LEGAL SERVICES

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VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdupsrvs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

The Small Business Commission consists of seven members, who shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. The Board of Supervisors shall appoint three members and the Mayor shall appoint four members.

Two of the Mayor's appointments and one of the Board of Supervisors appointments shall serve for an initial two-year term. Thereafter, all commissioners shall serve for four-year terms.

At least five of the seven individuals appointed to the Commission shall be owners, operators, or officers of San Francisco small businesses. One of the individuals appointed to the Commission may be either a current or former owner, operator, or officer of a San Francisco small business. One member of the Commission may be an officer or representative of a neighborhood economic development organization or an expert in small business finance.

Vacant seats 1 and 2, must be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Must be an owner, operator, or officer of a San Francisco small business, for either an initial two or four year term (to be determined by the Board of Supervisors), ending date to be determined.

Vacant seat 3, must be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. May be a member of the public, and may be either a current or former owner, operator or officer of a San Francisco small business. May be an officer or representative of a neighborhood economic development organization or an expert in small business finance for either an initial two or four year term (to be determined by the Board of Supervisors), ending date to be determined.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 03-541112

In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Kathryn Wells' for Change of Name. The application of Sarah Kathryn Wells for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Kathryn Wells has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kathryn Wells. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of February, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: D-Rock Productions, 1261 Broderick Street #101, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daron Ker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/29/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/29/03.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cleaning Services 1338 Alabama Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roberto M. Estanislao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/27/04.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: R & G Hauling 645 Excelsior Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roberto Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/27/04.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shear Bliss 422 Spruce Street San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Andrew Lucido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/30/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/30/03.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Limo Express 474 19th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alan Chung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/26/04.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: BC Design Partners 168 Cassell Ave, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed James Ellis Brown. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/09/04.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272882-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: McGovern Consulting 2410 17th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christina P. McGovern. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/26/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272721-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frames on 3rd 2500 3rd Street San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carol Korycinski. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/22/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272940-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Don's Barber Shop 2272 Chestnut Street San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, Daniel Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/21/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/21/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272995-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mad Seven Records 616 Fell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Mike Akin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/22/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273110-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lavish Recordings and T-Art Enterprises 1630 Oakdale Ave., #B San Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wilhemina Lassandra Teart. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 1/26/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 04-54112

In the Matter of the Application of John Stewart Dolan for Change of Name. The application of John Stewart Dolan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that John Stewart Dolan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zoe Jayde Dolan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 238 on the 11th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273137-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cleaning Services 1338 Alabama Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roberto M. Estanislao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/27/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273136-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: R & G Hauling 645 Excelsior Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roberto Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/27/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273096-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Limro Express 474 19th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed James Ellis Brown. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/09/04.

JAN. 29, FEB. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272666-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: BC Design Partners 168 Cassell Ave, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed James Ellis Brown. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/09/04.

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E05

**LEGAL SERVICES****STATEMENT FILE A-0272755-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sparky's Bookkeeping 339 Bartlett St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110This business is conducted by an individual, signed Malla Spanyo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/19/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/13/04

JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272701-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Geary Street Bella Pizza 4124 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed John Lee Tang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/16/04

JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272651-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1 Stop Four Productions 1760 O'Farrell Street #17 San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Timothy Plummer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/09/04

JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

LEGAL SERVICES

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 - ATTORNEY AT LAW -

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STATEMENT FILE A-0272433-00
 The following person(s) are doing business as: Upper Third Street Boutique and Market 6275 Third Street San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Evelyn Powers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272449-00
 The following person(s) are doing business as: 1. Everything Baking. 2. EverythingBaking.com 4135 17th Street #202 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company , signed Malcom Haar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/04The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/22/04

JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272620-00
 The following person(s) are doing business as: Spy Cafe 555 Beach Street San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jason Woodside. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/04

JAN. 15, 22 29, FEB. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272640-00

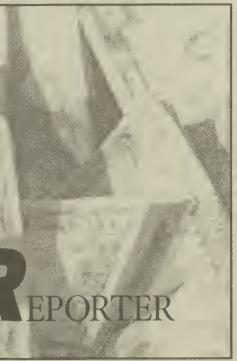
The following person(s) are doing business as: Aran Trucking 2208 15th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Fiachra McCarron. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01-16-04

JAN. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 2004

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO
SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

To whom it may concern : The Name of the Applicant(s) is California Pizza Kitchen, Inc. The Applicant(s) listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 524 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, Ca 94102 . Type of License applied for :

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JAN. 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004



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Positive Force Events



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3 **POSITIVE SPACE: POLK** Tuesday, Feb 3, 6:30pm @ Club Rendezvous, 1312 Polk St @ Bush St Join the guys of Positive Force at Club Rendezvous. When we're there, it's the best balcony in the bay. Come and get connected with other HIV+ gay/Bi men

4 **POSITIVE FORCE BOOK CLUB** Wednesday, Feb 4, 6pm @ STOP AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro St @ 18th St We've picked the first book for our Positive Force book club and we're reading it. Join us for lively and heartfelt discussions from the HIV+ man's point of view. It's a great way to connect with other HIV+ men in a fun and educational atmosphere.

5 **FOCUS GROUP** Thursday, Feb 5, 5:30pm @ STOP AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro St @ 18th St Join the guys of Positive Force as they discuss issues around disclosure in our sero-discordant relationships. Let your thoughts and feelings be heard.

6 **POSITIVE FORCE DINNER DATE** February 6 @ TBA Join the guys of Positive Force in this collaborative event with the Meeting Game Salon as they present "Positive Dinner Date." Join us for dinner and a great opportunity to connect with old and new friends. Registration is limited — go to www.meetinggame.com for more info or call Jeff at 415.865.0790 X307.



12 **CAFE POZ** Thursday, Feb 12, 1pm @ Castro Country Club, 539 Castro St @ 18th St Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Café Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to everyone and hosted by the volunteers of the Castro Country Club. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment news-flash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us!

18 **POSITIVE SPACE: H-CAFÉ** Wednesday, Feb 18, 6:30pm @ H-Café, Sanchez St @ 17th St Feeling the mid-week blues? Need a way to help finish off the month on an up note? Well, H-Café is the place to be. The guys of Positive Force are out "en masse" at this great event.

25 **POSITIVE FORCE BOOK CLUB** Wednesday, Feb 25, 6pm @ STOP AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro St @ 18th St We've picked the first book for our Positive Force book club and we're reading it. Join us for lively and heartfelt discussions from the HIV+ man's point of view. It's a great way to connect with other HIV+ men in a fun and educational atmosphere.

26 **POSITIVE SPACE: SOMA** Thursday, Feb 26, 7pm @ The Eagle Tavern, Harrison St @ 12th St Is Soma your neighborhood? The Castro a bit too chi-chi for you? This is Positive Space with a South of Market twist. Positive Force invites you to join other HIV+ gay/bi men to speak your mind and get connected. Come early to see old friends and meet some new ones — and stay later for BAND NIGHT on the patio of the Eagle.



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Serial killer/‘monster’ revisited
Filmmaker Nick Broomfield’s new doc
‘Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer.’
page 29

A star in toe shoes
New season for SF Ballet
dancer Tina LeBlanc.
page 27



‘Lucky’ in love
Rocker Melissa Etheridge
celebrates on her new CD.
page 33



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 5 • 29 January 2004

Last tango in Park City

2004 Sundance
Film Festival wraps

by David Lamble

A scene from director Christopher Munch's Harry & Max



It was the year of the outsider at the 20th Sundance Film Festival, as major prizes were awarded to films exploring stories of a black gay teenager in Harlem (*Brother to Brother*), a mother trying to overcome cocaine addiction (*Down to the Bone*), a young Colombian woman caught smuggling heroin into this country (*Maria Full of Grace*), the violent backlash against illegal Mexican farm workers (*Farmingville*), time-travel on a \$7,000 budget (*Primer*), and the question of whether an overabundance of talent is actually an obstacle to success in the rock-music industry (*Dig*).

The ceremonies were hosted by young Hollywood royalty Jake Gyllenhaal (*Donnie Darko*) and Zooey Deschanel (*Almost Famous*), who flaunted their SoCal childhoods by showing each other's high school yearbook pictures. Gyllenhaal (set to kiss Heath Ledger in the Ang Lee-directed *Brokeback Mountain*) at one point started to unbutton his fly in a jokey opening song-and-dance number with Deschanel.

As usual, there was a large contingent of queer artists with films in and out of competition, on topics ranging from an incestuous relationship between two brothers in the pop-music business; an experimental drama about a gay man and his schizophrenic mother; a closeted Indian

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Breaking down conventions

Innovative director Anne Bogart's lesbian life by Richard Dodds

Anne Bogart was famous as a lesbian before she was famous as a theater director. Famous, at least, as a student in the confines of Bard College, in the bucolic-sounding Annandale-on-Hudson in New York State.

"I got the reputation with straight women if you want to have a gay experience, go see Anne. And I had the most sexually active year of my life, and had more fun and I dressed the part. I started wearing brown corduroy pants, and I cut my hair really short and wore brown leather jackets, and smoked Lucky Strikes and drank Jack Daniels."

And she got the ball rolling right here in San Francisco.

"The summer before my senior year at college," Bogart said, "seven of us and a dog named Godot traveled around the country in a van doing street theater. And I was miserable. We came into San Francisco, and I went to City Lights bookstore and bought a book about how to be a lesbian. I read it, decided I'm going to be lesbian, and went out and found my first conquest."

Bogart had arrived early at San Jose Rep for a recent morning interview before rehearsals of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has been working with eight members of her SITI Company on an unorthodox interpretation of the Shakespeare fantasy opening this week.

Despite early Sapphic successes and three long-term relationships with women, including seven years with noted director Tina Landau, Bogart has seldom talked about her personal life in interviews. In hundreds of articles written about her, the focus has been almost totally on her directorial philosophies that challenge many of the conventional notions of theater.

Of course, it's the work that will be on stage, but as Bogart herself says:

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Anne Bogart, center, rehearses members of her SITI Company.



Dave Sheridan



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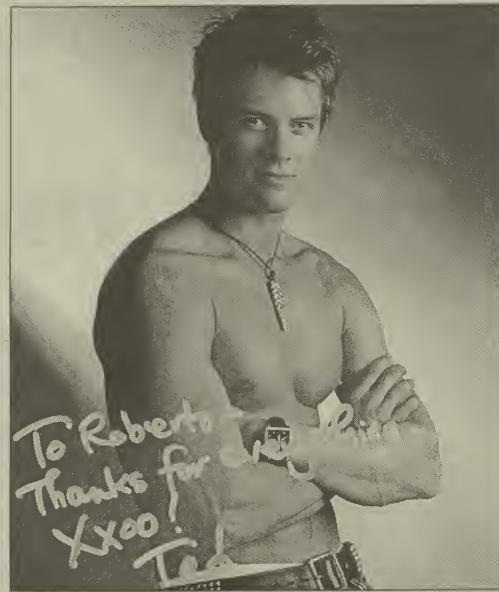
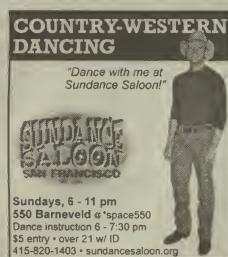
Tad's pecs, Bette's globes: working 'em

by Roberto Friedman

Someone at DreamWorks must know about Out There's bulletin board bursting full of shirtless hunks like **Maria Lopez** (as **Greg Louganis** in *Breaking the Surface*) and **Ian Somerhalder** (in *Rules of Attraction*), who look down at us and offer inspiration as we face down another deadline. We think this because we received this lovely publicity photo of matinee idol **Tad Hamilton** (humpy **Josh Duhamel**) from current DW release *Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!* Tad has scrawled in silver Sharpie: "To Roberto — Thanks for everything! XXOO! Tad"

Well, Tad, you're most certainly welcome. When your publicist adds another handwritten message, "Here's hoping we can swing something for next week," does he mean you? Is that win-a-date competition open to men who date men? Maybe we should just contact your agent at The **Richard Levy Agency**. Would that be Richard Levy (**Sean Hayes**) or Richard Levy (**Nathan Lane**)? Anyway, here's hoping for a better movie next time!

BTW, did we really escape the wall-to-wall coverage of last Sunday night's **Golden Globes** only to confront that monster, five-column photo of **Uma Thurman** in a ball gown in Monday morn's *Chron*?



Tad Hamilton (Josh Duhamel) and Out There have a thing goin' on.

Yes, we did! At any rate, nothing will ever top the time that the Divine Miss **Bette Midler** won a Globe for *The Rose*, and a second one as "Most Promising Newcomer" or something like that. She walked up to the podium, shook her breasts at the cameras, and said, "I'll show you a pair of Golden Globes!"

Gay edge

Perhaps the highball has never had a better friend than gay *bon vivant* **Buddy Cole**, who makes a special appearance on *Out on the Edge*, a stand-up comedy showcase set to air Monday, February 2, at 10 p.m. on Comedy Central. Buddy, firmly ensconced on his barstool, has a quirky take on topic *du jour* gay marriage, and he even does some-

thing about it. Big gay acts include **Jim David**, **Elvira Kurt** and **Johnny McGovern** as **The Gay Pimp** working out in "Soccer Practice." Wait, does that make The Gay Pimp's backup boys **The Gay Whores**?

Music acts include all-upper-case **BETTY** and **The Hazards**, doing their international hit "Gay Boyfriend." Emcee is Tony Award-winner **Alan Cumming**, who makes several fab costume changes, and comes out quite fetchingly for the grand finale in a revealing leather skirt. Way to host, dude.

Alf baked

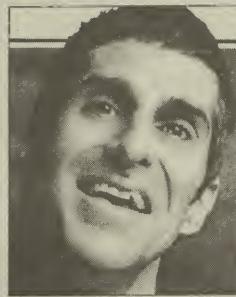
In a puppet's own puff-piece recently in the *NY Observer*, plugging his pilot for *Nite at Alf's*



Hit Talk Show, upholstered '80s alien **Alf** confessed to having a predilection for science-fiction movies. "Anything with **Angelina Jolie** in it. She looks alien to me for some reason. She's my type."

The *NY Observer*, it transpires, had always thought Alf was gay.

"I like women," Alf dispelled that rumor. "But I can't find any woman who will date outside of her species. Although **Julia Roberts** did a couple of times, with that musician guy."



Perry Farrell: Dick's addiction

Chapman Baizer

While we're on the subject of musicians, we find that we're having another **Perry Farrell** moment. The current issue of *Rolling Stone's* Q&A session with the **Jane's Addiction** frontman asks him the not-unprovoked question, "How do you feel when you're performing with your dick hanging out?"

"It's a bit of a smokescreen, y'-know?" replies our Perry. "Like monkeys who sit around in a zoo all day, they sometimes freak out. I guess I feel like a monkey. But it puts you in a zone. It's a totally freeing thing." Monkey, zone, free: OK, we think we get it.

Party at John's

On the other hand, Out There is still trying to puzzle out a recent **Liz Smith** column (or, as the *Chron* would have it, **LIZ** in 300-pt. boldface-type Smith) in which she laments the recent passing of her socialite pal from El Morocco,

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DANCE

Tiny treasure of the San Francisco Ballet

Dancer Tina LeBlanc reflects on her career as the SF Ballet season begins

by Stephanie von Buchau

It's the smartest thing I ever did."

Tiny Tina LeBlanc — at 5'10", I tower over her, and we won't even discuss the weight difference — is talking about her decision to leave the then-prestigious Joffrey Ballet to take a chance at stardom in San Francisco.

Twelve years ago, the verdict was still out on Helgi Tomasson's reign as new artistic director of the San Francisco Ballet. Would the company survive its past turmoil, and would Tomasson, a celebrated Balanchine dancer, turn SFB into New York City Ballet West? By now, we all know that far from just surviving, SFB thrived and is in no way a NYCB clone. Let LeBlanc tell the story — and remember that Tomasson took a chance on her, too; Joffrey is possibly the least "classical" ballet company in the world.

"Helgi had a vision for this company that worked out beautifully. I'd rather be here than anywhere else in America. The repertoire is so varied; he hires choreographers that San Francisco might never get to see otherwise — people like Billy Forsythe, Mark Morris, Hans van Manen. And his choice of dancers has been so smart. By making the company so strong, he attracts other good dancers. People want to be here. I guess I'm pretty impressed."

Ballet fans are impressed with LeBlanc, too. As the season opens next week, she's returning from maternity leave. Her second son, with her contractor husband, was born exactly a year ago. Nobody ever said ballet was easy, and LeBlanc found coming back this time even more arduous than after her first-born six years ago.

"Oh yes, more extreme at my age," she laughs. (She's in her late 30s, though coy about the exact age.) "The last time I came back, heavy and out of shape, everybody watched the process. But I had more space this time. I'd put the baby to sleep in his car seat and work until he woke up — nothing but barre for six weeks.

"It was painful, but I became more aware of how I work, and was able to get rid of bad habits and put in new stuff. I'm a dancer who is very aware of the process, and I try to make everything as clean and precise as possible." Apparently so, for she has been cast as Kitri in the opening program, *Don Quixote*, though she is quick to point out she's in "the fourth cast."

Kitri is sharp as a tack, the girl who always gets what she wants, is on stage most of the time, and has to execute some arresting tricks. LeBlanc acknowledges the challenge. "There is so much dancing in this part, and everything is big, stage-filling. There are no little steps. It requires enormous energy, and the character is broad, too, which is not exactly my style. It's quite a challenge for me, and for Guennadi, too. He's so Russian, we have to try to get into a Spanish mode."

Guennadi Nedviguine will play Basil, Kitri's feckless but charming lover. He's a high-flying technician with a quiet, classical core that makes him one of LeBlanc's favorite partners. She's also full of admiration for Gonzalo Garcia ("He's so musical, and

so appealing") and the two Frenchmen, Pascal Molat ("You can feel the music through his dancing") and Nicola Blanc ("such elegant, clean footwork").

Classical cast

Clean and musical are two words Tina LeBlanc uses frequently. She started dancing at age three when her older sister took lessons. (LeBlanc's younger sister, Sherri, is an SFB soloist.) By age 15, Tina had left high school and was dancing in Joffrey II. "Whenever they needed a 'classical' girl in the big company, they'd call me up."

She transferred to Joffrey Ballet at age 17, where she quickly became the company's best classical ballerina. Nobody who followed Joffrey regularly was surprised when Tomasson tapped LeBlanc to come here. In addition to Kitri, she will appear in the Balanchine festival later this season, and in premieres by Tomasson and Christopher Wheeldon.

It's always a little dicey to ask a dancer about their "status," but LeBlanc is frank. "I don't project like a 'star,'" she says, "not like Lorena [Feijoo], Yuan Yuan [Tan] or Evelyn [Cisneros]. I think I'm more of a dancer's dancer. My colleagues appreciate me more than the critics do, sometimes. I think Helgi appreciates and respects me; I've danced all the big roles here: Odette, Giselle, Aurora, Juliet, now Kitri. I'm usually in the third or fourth cast, but that's okay."

"Some of 'status' is about taste, and not everybody's is the same. And some of it is about selling the product. A dancer might have gotten more first nights because she was a box-office draw" — and we both know LeBlanc is talking about the departed Lucia Lacarra — "even if some of us are thinking she doesn't have the stamina or technique to do the role justice. But that's one of the things I admire about Helgi: he puts the company first. He's always looking

for that edge, and that's why people want to dance here."

Luckily, LeBlanc has never been seriously injured, but with two kids and advancing age, what are her chances of continuing many more years? "Well, I always think I have five more years, but if it doesn't work out, I'll probably teach. It's a skill, and I work well with kids. I might also coach part-time, but working with children is what I want to do."

Since she knows how difficult a career in dance is, does she want her own boys to study ballet? "I'd like them to take class because of the discipline, and so they understand what Mommy does. I'd like to dance long enough so the baby can see me on stage. My six-year-old already loves it; he saw *Nutcracker* four times this season. I don't care if they become dancers, but I'd like them to be knowledgeable audience members."

Knowledgeable audience members know that Tina LeBlanc is one of SFB's unsung treasures. ▼



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Models may vary

The agony and the ecstasy

Full gay spectrum in 'The Last Sunday in June' at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

In *The Last Sunday in June*, one of the characters offers this variation on a familiar chant: "We're here, we're queer, we're average and insecure." He says this as the New York Gay Pride parade passes a Christopher Street apartment where an impromptu party has turned into a frank discussion of gay life. It's not always a pretty picture.

Playwright Jonathan Tolins signals his intentions early on, as Michael and Tom, lovers of seven years, plan to avoid the festivities by going to Pottery Barn to find lamps for the suburban home they're planning to buy. "I hate Gay Pride Day," says the lip-synching Michael. "It makes me feel ugly and out of step and mean."

But Pottery Barn becomes an increasingly mythic destination as various friends, past lovers, and a requisite shirtless hunk drop by to get a good view of the parade from Michael and Tom's apartment (stylishly designed by Nancy Mancias). That the assemblage

begins to resemble a formula gay play is not lost on Tolins or his characters. When a late-arriving character wonders why someone has turned on a noisy juicer as a pointed interruption, he is told that it's merely "a cheap theatrical device set up before your entrance."

Tolins, best-known for his gay genetics play *Twilight of the Golds*, can be a very funny writer. But while the laughs never completely stop, the playwright has a lot more on his mind than the next set-up. He's declaring his right to depict unhappy uncloseted contemporary homosexuals, a species that dramatically went out of favor during the gay movement's first decades. Tolins seems to be saying we're strong enough to shine a light into our darker places, that negativity can be a sign of positive evolution.

Of course, heterosexual writers have been writing about unhappy heterosexuals from the birth of theater, but Tolins' characters have a dimension to their issues that straight people don't have to deal with. They can wish they were straight, and for at least two of the



P.A. Cooley, Leon Acord, David Kirkpatrick, Thomas Fahrner in *Sunday*

delight as an older queen who travels with his own martini shaker, Thomas Fahrner conveys the bouncing excitement of the newly out, Leon Acord has a testy energy as the HIV-positive character, Andrew Nance goes red with intensity as an author ready to turn in his gay card, Megan Biolchini is wonderfully centered in her single scene as the author's fiancée, and David Kirkpatrick brings bright spirit to the role of a hunk who happens to belong to a book club.

The Last Sunday in June explores some of the same territory as *The Men from the Boys*, Mart Crowley's sequel to *The Boys in the Band*. But while the Crowley play felt sour about gay life, Tolins offers, if not a positive scenario, at least a promise of possibilities.

"No one knows what we're supposed to be anymore," says one of the characters. "I think people just have to make it up as they go along, as long as they tell each other the truth." ▼

The Last Sunday in June will run through Feb. 29 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

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"Mike Albo is a cross between Sandra Bernhard & David Sedaris." — Entertainment Weekly

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Homosexual like us

Two NCTC one-acts in one evening open

by Richard Dodds

When the term "homosexual" was coined in the 1870s, it provided an identity that would eventually lead to community. But identity also created a target for those determined to rid the world of same-sex attraction. A pair of ingeniously coupled one-act plays at New Conservatory Theatre Center looks at both the birth of this identity and the target it remained for decades later.

Michael D. Jackson's *A Taste of Heaven*, set in the 1880s, focuses on the time when manly love, including physical affection, began to be equated with an erotic love with a name that few wished to embrace. Based on the diaries of American poet F.S. Ryan, this stately play portrays the evolving relationship of two college friends who know what they want, but aren't sure if they are allowed to have it.

Nick Sholley plays Ryan, the campus lothario whose self-centered heterosexuality ironically allows him to become a confidante to self-described "cocksucker" Rob Luke, played by Peter Caslavka. But even as their relationship becomes a combination of manly and erotic love, both know that traditional marriage is the only road open to them.

Jackson writes with a gentle formality that suggests an Oxford-like setting though the play is set in America. Without melodrama or angst, he allows his characters to explore their feelings with positive motivations. The early death of one character does seem too dramatically convenient, but at least his demise isn't caused by the usual gay-tragedy devices.

Sholley's performance as Ryan has a BMOC aura, but as the friends' relationship develops,



Peter Caslavka and Nick Sholley play the leads in both one-act plays.

Sholley tempers the braggadocio with affection that doesn't undercut the character's self-confidence. Caslavka is appealing as Rob Luke, though he has some trouble finding the diction for the formality of the language.

Sholley and Caslavka return after an intermission for Harry Cronin's *Dooley*, which returns attention to a curious but real-life story in which homophobia and the Cold War collided. In the play, Cronin imagines the night when Dr. Thomas Dooley sees his celebrity life of packaged heroism come crashing down.

Dooley's humanitarian adventures in Vietnam in the mid-1950s, and the book he wrote about them, had made him famous and respected throughout the country. The government put him on tour to lecture on the evils of Communism and the need for American involvement in Southeast Asia. But Dooley was surprisingly indiscreet about his homosexual affairs, and in *Dooley* we watch as he is entrapped by an

undercover agent.

Sholley does a good job at creating a charismatic character with increasing doubts about his real worth. On this night, fueled by alcohol, he chooses to open up to a young sailor he meets at a bar. Caslavka is on target as the undercover pickup, feigning awe when he recognizes Dooley, and then doing a playful dance of seduction. After he reveals himself as an informant, Caslavka hardens his performance while holding onto glimmers of humanity.

The combination of these two plays, sensitively directed by Alan Quismorio, spans the beginnings of homosexual identity and the height of its persecution 60 years later. The results are often dramatically rewarding and intellectually stimulating. ▼

A Taste of Heaven and *Dooley* will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through Feb. 22. Tickets are \$25 & \$28. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

The woman behind the monster

Meet the real 'Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer'

by David Lamble

Towards the end of his film and right before his star, the woman tabloid media had billed as the nation's first female serial killer, Aileen Wuornos, was executed by the state of Florida, Nick Broomfield conducts a final death-row interview. Seeking to unravel contradictions in her story, the filmmaker's questions seem to touch a raw nerve. The woman in the orange jumpsuit just snaps, her eyes glowing, her face twisted with rage, a face that may have been the last thing her victims saw. Like an episode of *Star Trek* written by a Kennedy assassination buff, Wuornos' rant contends that Florida police knew she was killing her male tricks and let her continue, in order to enhance the media rights to her story. Wuornos predicts that after she is executed, a spaceship will beam her up to God, so she can witness the destruction of Earth by a giant meteor.

Later, Broomfield, still shaken

by the ravings of the woman he felt he had gotten to know during her 12 years of incarceration, remarks on the ironic definition of insanity concocted by the American legal system. "It was pretty incredible that Aileen had just sailed through the psychiatric tests the day before. It makes you wonder what you'd have to do to fail."

Fans of Broomfield's most recent work may smile and think, "He's at it again." And they'd be right. Broomfield's instincts are still part pulp-journalism as practiced by the Brits, mixed with the low cunning of a media cat-burglar: racing through the night, always following his cameraperson into the homes of total strangers with his trademark boom-mike, strangers his breathless style promises know some dark secret that will conclusively prove who was behind the brazen assassinations of two of America's top hip-hop stars (*Biggie and Tupac*) or just what Courtney Love may have had to do with the suicide death of her husband, Nirvana's Kurt Cobain (*Kurt & Courtney*), especially

Inevitably, Broomfield's sources mislead or betray him, or he just loses his nerve. Broomfield lacks an instinct for the jugular so well-honed by his rival, Michael Moore. If Moore is a man whose support can be as lethal as his scorn (ask Wesley Clark), Broomfield is just a guy you feel embarrassed for, the Rupert Pupkin of documentary-makers.

Capital caper

That said, this also must be said: In *Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer* (co-directed by Joan Churchill), Broomfield's crazy, gonzo methods and slapdash editing style pay off brilliantly. Setting out to prove that the State of Florida executed a mentally disturbed woman, his film is a provocative and entertaining indictment of the American justice system in capital cases.

Comparisons must be made to *Monster*, Patty Jenkins' brilliant fictional retelling of Wuornos' murder spree and her *Bonnie and Clyde*-like love affair with a young lesbian (Christina Ricci), especially

given Charlize Theron's Oscar-worthy portrayal of Wuornos. While *Monster* makes Aileen's rampage the stuff of film noir, with the added comfort-food of tragic love, Broomfield's version gives us her life in all its messy specificity. The denizens of this story have twisted and often unfathomable motives. Few emerge as sympathetic as Ricci's naive lover or Bruce Dern's turn as a Vietnam War vet who treats Aileen as a soul survivor.

Broomfield's ace in the hole is his ability to interrogate his own, earlier film, *Aileen Wuornos: The Selling of a Serial Killer*, in which Aileen's defense attorney, high on pot, is seen on camera taking money for her story. Subpoenaed to testify and defend his film, Broomfield found a non-exploitative way back in, and a connection to one of Aileen's only genuine friends, a woman who takes him through the working-class Michigan 'hood where Aileen first became a hooker for the benefit of



Aileen Wuornos: sadly revealing

the local boys.

In one of the film's most sadly revealing moments, Broomfield secretly records Aileen confessing that she can no longer bear life on death row. Later, Gov. Jeb Bush will steamroll her way to execution with the telling comment, "We want to be more like Texas." ▼

Opens Friday.

Sundance Fest

◀ Arts cover

gay guy who receives tips from the ghost of Cary Grant; a drama about male hustlers in Tel Aviv; another about a prison riot in Brazil; new work from a veteran gay filmmaker hooked on porn; and a tempestuous story about a New Jersey teenager who falls in love with a straight couple.

Brother to Brother The major queer coup of the Sundance awards ceremony on January 24 was the Special Grand Jury Prize given to Rodney Evans for his drama exploring a young black gay teenager's attempt to gain perspective on his sexuality and his culture by striking up a friendship with an older writer with roots in the Harlem Renaissance. Evans' film contains a powerful scene with echoes of the writing of James Baldwin, in which the young man describes being kicked out of his house by his enraged father. "It's like when my dad caught me with this guy in my room. He was kicking the shit out of me. And he just kept screaming, 'Not in my house!'" Later, when the young man talks to his older friend about the position of black gays during the Harlem Renaissance, he hears, "What about being gay in that time? Respect was the last thing he was going to get."

Harry & Max In 1992, director Christopher Munch burst onto the queer-film firmament with a short drama based on an intriguing "what if." *The Hours and the Times* imagines an affair between Beatles manager Brian Epstein and John Lennon on a four-day trip to Barcelona, Spain, just before the Fab Four spun into pop orbit. A dozen years later, Munch returns with a drama that takes the subject of pop-star incest one silly step further, to involve a relationship between actual siblings.

In a scene from *Harry & Max*, the brothers talk about the origins of their attraction. "God! Now I feel guilty for making you gay." "I already knew what I wanted." "When you were seven." "Yep."

Munch talked to the Sundance Channel about *Harry & Max*: "It



Toronto-based filmmaker Bruce La Bruce returns with *Raspberry Reich*.

deals with boundaries and appropriate ways for intimate relationships to unfold."

Book of Love Passionate New Yorker Alan Brown's provocative new feature co-stars Gregory Smith, the soulful young performer from the WB's family drama *Everwood*. Brown describes *Book of Love* as "the story of a young married couple in New Jersey who meet a young boy, who finds them to be a glamorous, worldly couple. It's about how all three lives really change from that point on. It's about good people doing bad things, and not judging them for it."

Touch of Pink Described as a cross between *Wedding Banquet* and *Monsoon Wedding*, this puff piece of a comedy featuring attractive newcomer Jim Mistry has a closeted Indian gay guy getting advice from the spirit of Cary Grant.

Garden Continuing a trend where gay stories are used by Middle Eastern filmmakers as a backdrop for exploring the region's global issues, this documentary depicts a friendship between two Tel Aviv rent boys.

Tarnation First-time director Jonathan Couette (with producer

mentoring from John Cameron Mitchell and Gus Van Sant) experiments with ways of telling a true story about a young gay man and his schizophrenic mom. The buzz is good on this one.

Carandiru Oscar-nominated Brazilian filmmaker Hector Babenco (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*) returns with a tough new film about a real-life prison riot in São Paulo, where 111 prisoners were shot by police while no cops were injured. This unique jail, where the rules set by the inmates, contains a rich cross-section of colorful queer characters, and features a powerful performance from newcomer Rodrigo Santoro. Coming in May.

Raspberry Reich Infamous for porn dramas like *Hustler White*, *Super 8 1/2* and *No Skin Off My Ass*, the Toronto-based Bruce La Bruce's newest porn extravaganza should entertain, if not fetch awards. Strand Releasing will distribute.

Debs A pop film that will appeal to both gay men and lesbians, a very successful feature film version of last year's short.

10,000 Clouds of Peace A dream-like Mexican film that resembles early Gus Van Sant. ▼

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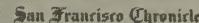
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Gay history as collage

by Jim Nawrocki

Queer Street: Rise and Fall of an American Culture, 1947-1985 by James McCourt; Norton, \$29.95

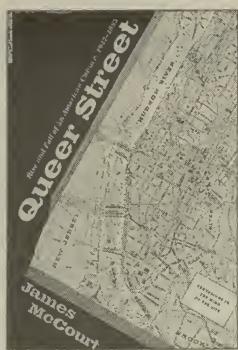
"can imagine a book made up entirely of examples," wrote the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. This is the first of many quotes that James McCourt uses as chapter headings in his new book *Queer Street*, and it's a telling one. In Wittgenstein's compact but monumental work *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921), he comes close to producing a book of examples. The *Tractatus* is a series of "propositions" that reads almost like prose poetry.

Wittgenstein, a gay man who was arguably the 20th century's greatest philosopher, is one of many ghosts who haunt McCourt's *Queer Street*, and who seem to have inspired its uncommon, arresting structure.

Another prominent ghost is philosopher and critic Walter Benjamin, a contemporary of Wittgenstein. Fleeing the Nazis in the 1940s, Benjamin committed suicide. He left behind the unfinished manuscript for a large cultural history in the form of montage or collage; he collected quotations to assemble a history that would be a kind of Wittgensteinian book of examples. No one is quite sure how Benjamin intended to tie all of

these together, but the bulk of his work was published by Harvard University Press as *The Arcades Project* in 2000. McCourt mentions both Wittgenstein and Benjamin many times in *Queer Street*, and it seems clear that his book is modeled on Benjamin's effort to construct a new kind of history.

Queer Street is McCourt's metaphor for the hard-to-pin-down locus of queer American culture. Like Benjamin, McCourt brings together essays and examples in a book in which all is "presented in windows inserted in the nonfiction *roman fleuve* which *Queer Street* finally is." In other words, those hoping to find a linear, narrative history of queer culture from 1947-85 had better look elsewhere. McCourt's book is an amalgam of autobiography, cultural history, and the commonplace book. It is unabashedly erudite, and makes great demands of its readers. *Queer Street* is not for



everyone.

McCourt has authored three novels and two short-story collections, and he brings the tropes of fiction to *Queer Street*. He refers to himself in the third person as both "Author" and "QT" for "Queer Temperament," his alter ego for a kind of gay consciousness. *Queer Street* is arranged more or less chronologically as an extended coming out story overlaid with an intricately woven cultural history. The book is steeped

in the lore of theater, Hollywood, and the queer literary tradition. McCourt pays homage to a legion of queer heroes and icons, in some cases presenting detailed studies of them. He composes a few prose poems and dramatic fragments, and he even includes a gay gloss of the Biblical story of Jacob, and an interview with Bette Davis.

There's real richness to this collage technique of writing history. McCourt has attempted a stream-of-consciousness portrait of a culture and a time. Its structure is influenced by cinema, theater, and music. In his chapters about such sacred and vanished gay venues as the Astor Bar and the Everard Baths, McCourt brings the places alive with quotations, as if he were a reporter taking notes on the backroom conversations of the 20th century. *Queer Street* is not an easy book to read, but there are treasures to be found here. ▼

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Flights of fantasy

by Jim Piechota

Johnny Was & Other Tall Tales by Greg Wharton; Suspect Thoughts Press, \$16.95

Local Mission District writer Greg Wharton presents this new book of erotic vignettes for your reading pleasure prefaced in an introduction supposedly (and suitably) written naked. He's the ultra-creative and talented editor of such web 'zines as suspect-thoughts.com and velvetmafia.com; and with these 24 bits and chunks of unadulterated forays into the deep, dark canyons of sexuality, he branches out into our fantasies.

Admittedly derived from "parts of real people both known and not known," each tale dips quickly into a daydream world of sex and fiery male desire, and,

then, just as swiftly, slips back out and onto the next vision. The tales shoot off like machine-gun fire, and should capture the interest of not only erotica readers, but of those horny career boys with the attention span of a housefly.

This book can be appreciated in the bedroom just as much as on a bus or train, because Wharton's ideas are hurled at the reader one after the other, each with their own unique personality, their own brand of sexing, their own way of shocking and teasing, and even romancing each raunchy fantasy to life.

While not everything will appeal to every reader (though there's nothing outwardly revolting), there's enough variety here to titillate even the coldest of hearts. Whether it be spying on a hunky neighbor through a kitchen window, a boring family camping trip that just got hot, the

telltale smirk from a stranger, or a deliciously detailed hookup at Blow Buddies, Wharton nails every sexual scenario to the wall and leaves it there, dangling, for us to ponder.

There's sex as a weapon, tattoo sex, mind-blowing boyhood sex, safe sex, Coach sex, Sarah Wrap sex, tranny sex, sex with spit, screwing as a way to deceive and seduce, and the title story, where the hazards of sex can sometimes outweigh the heat of life itself.

M. Christian, another of San Francisco's brilliant literary successes, contributes an appreciative, slyly covetous introduction, commenting that Wharton's hardcore fables are "just like life." After reading this untamed, fanciful collection of wants, needs, and unrestrained desires, we should count our blessings that life isn't like these tales — not all at once, anyway. ▼

Anne Bogart

◀ Arts cover

self says, "Certainly one's private life is richly enmeshed in the life of one's work."

Then why so little talk of Bogart the woman in interviews? "Nobody ever asks me," she said. "People will sometimes say, 'You're gay?' And I'll go, 'Yes,' and that will be extent of it. I'm so pleased we're talking about it."

Beyond tradition

But first, some talk about the work. Bogart and Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki founded the SITI Company in 1992 to develop a core group of actors trained in a technique far more elaborately physical than seen in traditional theater. "It's about manipulating time and space," Bogart has said. "The artform of theater is about creating movement for words, not simply illustrating words. I would call it expressive rather than descriptive movement."

Bogart and her SITI actors have brought their techniques to a wide range of material at theaters throughout the country. The productions have ranged from original creations about Virginia Woolf, Marshall McLuhan,



Anne Bogart on staging Shakespeare: 'I'm glad I waited this long.'

Gertrude Stein, and Orson Welles to such established plays as Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* and Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. But *A Midsummer Night's Dream* marks her first venture into Shakespeare.

"I didn't want to do Shakespeare when I was too young because I'm not very intelligent in certain areas," said the 52-year-old director. "I think Shakespeare demands a full spectrum of experiences. I found working on this that it's true. I'm glad I waited this long."

Bogart is taking a very stark approach to Shakespeare's luxuriant fantasy, and she instructed the designers to think in terms of the Dust Bowl and John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. "The magic in many productions of *Midsummer* is often made by the machinery, and I wanted to do a production where the magic is made by the actors. In a way it's saying, how can you make elegant, beautiful, humanistic art with nothing?"

While Bogart has developed

next page ▶

Richard Feinman (Courtesy American Repertory Theatre)

FILM

Times change for Clint Eastwood

His 'Mystic River' is in pre-Oscar wide release, up for nominations

by Brandon Judell

What is one to do with 73-year-old Clint Eastwood? On one website titled *Famous People Talk Gay*, the actor is quoted as saying, "The most gentle people in the world are macho males, people who are confident in their masculinity and have a feeling of well-being in themselves. They don't have to kick in doors, mistreat women, or make fun of gays."

Yes, this is the very guy who made all those racist, misogynist, and homophobic flicks in the '70s such as *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. To put it mildly, if you had put Eastwood's Dirty Harry with Harvey Fierstein alone in a room together back then, Harry would have uttered, "Make my day!" and blown Harvey away. "Blown away" in the bad sense.

No wonder the Montreal *Mirror*'s Matthew Hays wrote recently, "What an ideological mishmash Clint Eastwood is?" Why, just a few years ago, he directed *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, an adaptation of a popular book brimming over with Southern drag queens and gays. Now, admittedly, the film was dreadful, but it certainly wasn't homophobic.

Now out in pre-Oscar release is *Mystic River*, an adaptation of another popular novel, this one by Dennis Lehane. The book and film are about the long-range, constantly-recycled trauma caused by one act of pederasty in a rough section of Boston.

One afternoon, a young boy, Dave Boyle, is ordered into a car by a pedophile posing as a cop. The lad's two best friends, Jimmy Markum and Sean Devine, stand by watching. For the next four days, Dave is brutally molested until he escapes, apparently through the woods.

Jump ahead 25 years: Dave has turned into Tom Robbins, Jimmy into Sean Penn, and Sean into Kevin Bacon. The guys no longer hang out together, even though the withdrawn Dave has married Jimmy's cousin, Celeste (Marcia Gay Harden). The two have a withdrawn son, and Dave is now fascinated with vampire films.

Jimmy, putting aside a stretch in prison, is a success. He now runs his own grocery store, has three beautiful daughters, and a very supportive wife (Laura Linney). Sean is a detective.

Blood simple

Due to unexpected events, the three are going to have a reunion of sorts. You see, one night, Dave comes home bloodied, the very same evening one of Jimmy's offspring is sadistically murdered. Is there a connection? Is this an aftereffect of an ancient child rape? My lips are sealed.

But the *New York Times'* A.O. Scott's lips aren't. He's been screaming that Penn's performance is "not only one of the best performances of the year, but also one of the definitive pieces of screen acting in the last half-century." Not stopping there, he goes on to say Penn makes "Brando,

Dean, Pacino and DeNiro... all look like, well, actors." Calm down, A.O.

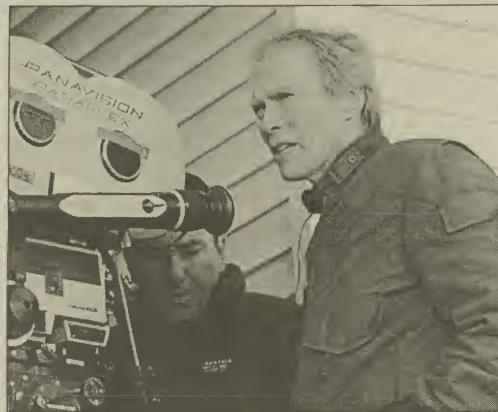
Although Scott is going a bit too far, Penn and the entire cast do give superb performances. And, if you're an Oscar buff, you will have to see this film, because there's no doubt *Mystic River* will dominate that award show.

But is this the best film of the past year? Definitely not. *25 Grams*, which also stars Sean Penn and is also about salvation and revenge, is a much better movie.

Mystic River's major flaw is its plot, which relies on a coincidence that is a bit too over-the-top when you think about. Truthfully, the cast's performances do leave you little time to think. There are also several shots where Eastwood thinks he's directing *Birth of the Nation*. Instead of going for the intimate, his camera rises above his characters for sweeping, all-encompassing visuals that corrupt the moment. The ending also has a tacked-on feeling.

There's also one moment that several people are saying is homophobic, but to explore it here would destroy the film for you, and that wouldn't be fair. I didn't find the scene so, but I can see their point.

In the end, if you lust for great acting, float on down *Mystic River*. As for Clint? At the press conference for the film, he was asked about his *Dirty Harry* past. The actor/director replied, "That was then, and now is now. I'm not apologizing for films I did 35 years ago. Times change. People change." ▼



Eastwood directing on the set of *Mystic River*: over the top.

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Anne Bogart

◀ page 30

plays around several gay icons, she seldom addresses their sexuality or romantic relationships. "It's a paradox, but I am endlessly fascinated by a man and a woman on stage. It's odd. I'm a gay woman. I'm attracted to women. Why heterosexual relationships are so interesting to me on stage, I don't know. But I have to be true to my interests."

In her own life, Bogart, who grew up in a military family, has had three long-term relationships with women, including the seven years with noted director Tina Landau. "She's the only girlfriend I've ever had where we're still friends," she said. Her most recent

relationship was with a lighting designer affiliated with the SITI Company.

"She dumped me for her assistant," Bogart said. "She broke up with me four years ago on Christmas Day, and it's taken me that long to get over it. In these four years of not being with someone, which is the longest I've ever gone, I've located a certain desperation about the relationships I've been in. So I'm hoping that the next relationship I'm in, I won't be so desperate for unconditional love. I'm available, and I'm looking."

Bogart kept busy during the dark period following the breakup, and she hasn't slowed down. Next on her plate is *Death and the Ploughman*, an elegy on death written in 1401. "It's one of

the most profound pieces of writing I have ever encountered," she said. Also on tap is *Score*, a show "about Leonard Bernstein's passion for music and other things."

Bogart believes that all theater is political in one way or another. But that's different from having a political agenda. "I'm interested in the human agenda. I think that how you develop values and ethics comes through learning, and from that you develop a perspective on the world, and from that perspective you make work. Ultimately, it has to come from the inside." ▼

A Midsummer Night's Dream will run through Feb. 22. Tickets are \$18-\$52. Call (408) 367-7255 or go to sjrep.com.

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Schoolhouse rock

'To Be and To Have' at the Castro

by David Lamble

In the opening shot of a new French documentary settling in for a week at the Castro, a herd of cows moves nervously through what appears to be the first heavy snowfall of the winter. This is dairy country, the moderately hilly countryside in Auvergne province where kids have farm chores to finish before hopping onto a 12-seat bus that takes them to a tiny schoolhouse. The school, like the rest of their lives, lies firmly nestled in the past.

To Be and To Have (even its English title has the ring of nostalgia) is filmmaker Nicolas Philibert's *cinema verite* love poem to a dying if beloved French institution, the one-room or single-class school. As the children file off the bus, they're welcomed by a distinguished-looking gentleman who gently but firmly repeats his greeting until he gets the answer he expects: "Good morning, monsieur."

The son of Spanish immigrants, George Lopez, with his goatee and charming manners,

bears a slight resemblance to the late actor Fernando Rey. His job as the sole teacher (with the aid of a female assistant) for 13 kids, ages 3 to 11, does in truth require some of the skills of a good character actor.

Jo Jo, a small boy whose infectious glee him makes a good little scene-stealer, is being stubborn this morning, refusing to count beyond six, perhaps as a way of having Mr. Lopez all to himself.

In the course of the film, Lopez will referee a fight between two older boys, show the kids how to make pancakes, console a shy female student about to face the unknown terrors of switching to a far-off middle school, chat with a mother concerned that her daughter is failing Math, and tutor the older students in the rigors of the French system of masculine and feminine nouns and pronouns.

Time tested

Director Philibert aims to film the invisible: the process by which a child learns basic skills, to play peacefully with others, to take his or her place in the larger world. As befitting a population whose

chores force them to spend as much time with cows as with people, the kids (with the exception of Jo Jo) aren't especially outgoing or articulate, and their teacher is no Mr. Rogers. But this 20-year veteran (shown on the eve of his retirement) slowly confounds our expectations about what a man's work should be: his old-fashioned but time-tested methods for getting the kids to conjugate their verbs and finish their work before rushing off for recess, and for instilling the small civilities that make life bearable, give real meaning to the slogan, "No child left behind."

To Be and To Have is slowly-paced but rich in capturing the tiny epiphanies that may prompt a shock of recognition, a recollection of a distant time when each of us could barely see over our desks, and had attention spans as tiny as our bladders.

The filmmaker's patience and apparent invisibility pay off in little moments that have the ring of truth without an intrusive sentimentality: a little Vietnamese girl asserts her mastery of the school's Xerox machine; the class enjoys sledding down a small hillside; an



New Yorker Films

Four-year-old Jo Jo steals scenes in Nicolas Philibert's *To Be and To Have*.

older boy, Julien, has to juggle his schoolwork with stints on his father's tractor, shoveling manure; and another boy, Olivier, confides to Mr. Lopez his fears after learning his dad has cancer. In a poignant moment towards the end of the film, a little boy whose mother brought him to school for the first time — and then stepped outside for a walk — suddenly panics and screams the

word that appears in all languages, "Mama!"

Lovers of *To Be and To Have* are advised to rent François Truffaut's wise and witty fictional study of the lives of schoolkids in a tiny French village, *Small Change*. ▼

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Getting 'Griselda'

by Tim Pfaff

There should probably be a 12-step program for CD collectors, but we the afflicted do occasionally get hits that remind us why we pursue this craven activity. Harmonia Mundi's new release of Alessandro Scarlatti's final opera, *Griselda*, based on a production from Berlin's Oper unter der Linden directed by René Jacobs and his Akademie für Alte Musik, is the scrumptious Madeleine that produced my most Proustian musical moment of recent months.

Some trans-Atlantic critics who should have known better have called the production and recording the work's modern premiere, but Bay Areas of a certain age will recall the UC Berkeley Music Department's production in the early '70s. This was in the days when the world's idea of an operatic rarity was a production of *Francesca da Rimini* at the Met.

I could be mistaken, but I think the 1721 score was found in the Berkeley Music Dept.'s remarkable library. Whatever the case, this important piece, which Scarlatti considered his operatic testament (of his 114 operas!), yielded a series of performances that changed forever the perception of opera history for most of the people who heard them.

In hindsight, those performances were "wrong" in many matters of style, sometimes amateurish in execution, lamely conducted (academic politics passed over two Baroque opera specialists on the faculty and handed the baton to its chairman) and immensely moving. Carole Bogard, America's Baroque soprano of the day, gave an achingly beautiful account of the difficult title role, and the high quality of the score itself took up the rest of the slack.

What a difference a quarter-century makes. In one of his most thrilling (and uniformly well-



sung) opera recordings to date, Jacobs gives such a searching account of this rich score that it could make its way back into the repertoire alongside the Handel operas that have eclipsed it and its ilk.

I've heard it said that the story of the "patient" Griselda, which originated with Boccaccio and then made a stunning reprise as "The Clerk's Tale" in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, is inherently unoperatic (and, even more wrong-headedly, anti-feminist). The bevy of librettos it has inspired argues otherwise, and the one Scarlatti set, his patron Ruspoli's masterful reworking of Apostolo Zeno's, plumbs emotional depths that the composer transported to musical heights.

Good wrench

While there are ample amounts of sheerly beautiful singing and playing in Jacobs' new version, there isn't a note that doesn't serve a dramatic end. There's nothing in *Madama Butterly* that's more wrenching than *Griselda*'s second act, in which the protagonist, a commoner who married wisely but too well, is first banished to her country roots (so her royal husband can marry their daughter; more on this when you're older) and then twice threatened with the murder of her son before her very eyes.

Dorothea Röschmann gives a deeply insightful and musically daring account of this character some have found two-dimension-

al. In her early arias, her voice is sufficiently thin that I wondered if this invaluable singer had been overdoing it. It turned out to be the first of many moments of canny musical acting, the vocal enactment of her initial submission. But as she reveals new facets of the character with each successive aria (and she has many), her voice opens up opulently, drenched with both pathos and fury. Her "Finirà, barbara sorte," at the opera's dead center, rums heavy with molten despair.

Still, vocal honors go to the Costanza, Veronica Cangemi, a singer unknown to me who threads one of the most liquidly beautiful voices to be heard today through some of the work's most tortured coloratura. She provides the ideal counterpoint to Griselda's fundamental darkness. Their recognition duet, when their instinctive, natural sympathies lead to knowledge that they are mother and daughter, is rapturous.

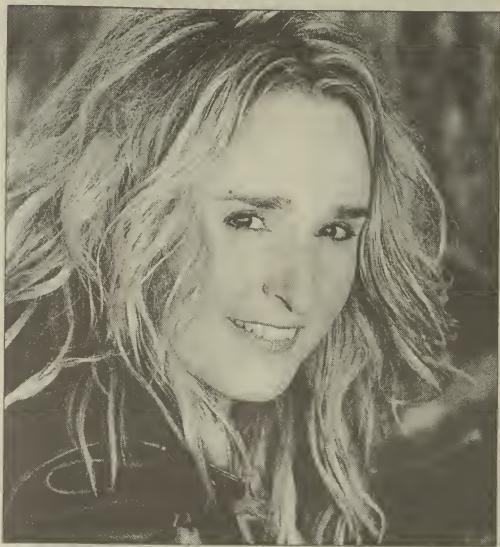
American countertenor Lawrence Zazzo turns King Qualtiero into a flesh-and-blood character with his rich palette of vocal colors (still too rare a commodity in his voice type), commanding sound and incisive way with words. Bernard Fink's Cherubino-like Roberto, Kobia van Rensburg's Corrado and Silvia Tro Santafé's appropriately unctuous Ottone complete a cast of seemingly infinite vocal resources and invention. They leave no doubt that they worked out their characters in a staged production of fine-grained dramatic focus.

Jacobs' band has countless opportunities to show off, and does in the moments when interactions between singers and particular instruments are integral parts of the musical design. But, better, they do what all truly great opera orchestras do, and become so intrinsic to the musical proceedings that one simply forgets about them, enthralled with *Griselda*. ▼

MUSIC

Lucky charms

Melissa Etheridge celebrates life and love on her new CD



Etheridge balances confidence and vulnerability in these new love songs.

by Gregg Shapiro

Melissa Etheridge isn't the only one who's fortunate when it comes to her new album *Lucky* (Island). Her loyal legions of fans who stuck with her through the dark, low-key CDs *Breakdown* and *Skin* are richly rewarded with the joyful, celebratory spirit of *Lucky*. Sexy and romantic, most of the songs are about being lucky in love, and come in the wake of Etheridge's courtship and subsequent marriage to actress Tammy Lynn Michaels.

Etheridge does an effortless job of balancing confidence and vulnerability in these love songs. She flirts and flies, and she fearlessly wrestles the demons of her world throughout. The results are uplifting and empowering. I spoke with her as she prepared for her tour in support of *Lucky*.

Gregg Shapiro: One of the first things people will notice about

your new album is the jubilant mood. Did it feel good to switch gears after the raw, ragged emotions of your previous album, *Skin*?

Melissa Etheridge: Oh, yeah. It certainly wasn't a conscious thing like, "Oh, I'm gonna be happy now!" It's actually that it's my experience in life. Thank goodness the journey has taken me here. The good stuff has happened, and the celebration and joyousness are real and true.

The album is sort of the musical equivalent of returning to the safety and comfort of home after being in exile. Was that what you intended?

Yeah, I guess so. I've been so involved with it that I haven't been able to step outside of it and think of it as a whole yet. I haven't played these songs live yet. I haven't lived them and gone through them. They're fresh and brand-new.

Lucky also has some, you'll excuse the expression, balls-to-the-wall rockers. Do you think it is necessary to include that kind of work on albums to show you haven't lost that edge?

Not only to show it but to do it. I make these albums and they go out there. Then I spend the rest of

the time performing these songs. I wanted to turn up the volume again. I wanted to rock again.

I was moved by "Tuesday Morning," the powerful and amazing tribute to Mark Bingham. It is a fitting tribute, and the Ella Jenkins sample from "Up and Down This Road" is the perfect touch.

Of course, as a person and an artist, I was affected by 9/11. We all were. It was reverberating and resounding in me. I started to think on my conscious, my political side, what I was aware of and what was going on with Mark Bingham on Flight 93. I decided I wanted to pay tribute to this man. I don't want this part of our gay history to be wiped away or swept under.

You're known for your live shows, and you're about to embark on a tour in support of *Lucky*. What can people expect to see and hear?

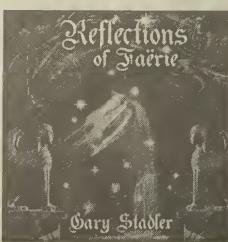
I don't think I've ever been as excited as I am to go on the road with an album and the set-list that I have now. I have eight albums to choose from. I'm thrilled with the band I have. I've got Kenny Aronoff on drums, Mark Browne on bass, and a new guitar-player named Phillip Sayce. I'm just so excited. It's just like the album. It's full of joy. ▶

Transformative music

More New Age music out on disc

by Jason Victor Serinus

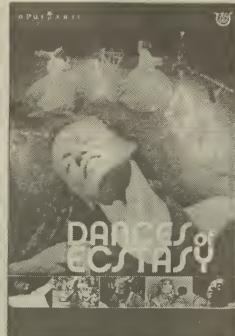
Reflections of Faerie - Gary Stadler (Sequoia Records) A sequel to Stadler's three previous "fairy" discs, this lovely project differs in more than the spelling of its title. Reflecting the composer's transition from all-synthesizer accompaniment to mostly acoustic instruments, the CD's eight tracks gently bathe the listener in New Age loveliness.



Stadler supplies piano, cello, acoustic bass guitar, string bass, harp, choir vocals, and the occasional electric keyboard and 12-string guitar riff. Lisa Lynne plays Celtic harp while other musicians supply viola, guitar and background choirs. Everything is sweetened, the sonic equivalent of the airbrushed cover, but the results have a most gentle effect on the listener.

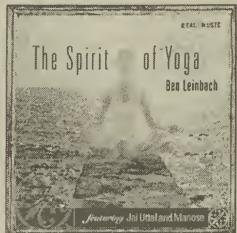
This is quintessential New Age impressionism, soothing music that is distinguished less by the originality and poignancy of its themes than its overall gestalt. Perfect for massage, spa settings, or late-night candlelight, it rarely calls attention to itself, content to hint at what lies beyond the veil.

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healing rituals. Shots of Roth, one of the pioneers of urban shamanistic trance dance; Jean Houston, who comments, "In the state of rapture the dancing, the dancer and the danced become one thing"; native healers; and organizers of Australia's Rainbow Serpent Festival all-night technotribal trance-dance experience are interspersed with excerpts from ancient dance-healing rituals. Complete footage of San, Candomble, Yoruba, Kut, and Zikir (whirling dervish) rituals completes the experience.

The second DVD includes Roth's 33-minute *Power Wave* workout, plus a choice of 14 tracks to which you can create your own dance.



Dances of Ecstasy - Gabrielle Roth (Opus Arte) This two-DVD set is a must-seize. Billed as "a sensory journey through rhythm, dance and music, a workout for the soul," the first disc begins with a 58-minute documentary on ancient and modern trance-dance

teacher Shiva Rea, this disc is designed to ease stress and promote peace of mind. Its four extended tracks breathe a seemingly unending flow of balance and reverence that is quite magical and transporting. Leinbach's wide range of influence can be heard in his ultra-mellow music, which mixes Far Eastern harmonies with just enough jazz and blues inflection to distinguish it from the pack.

The composer, who performs on synthesizers, harmonium, tamboura, acoustic guitar, vocals, bells, chimes and sound effects, is joined by Grammy-nominated Jai Uttal on dotar and vocals; bamboo flute master Manose Singh; and Bond Bergland on electric guitar. This music doesn't simply promote relaxation; it encourages you to unite with the inner oneness from which all true meaning flows. ▶

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New dyke girl in town

Girl Hayden takes leather title

by Mister Marcus

The leather community of San Francisco has another new titleholder. She's Girl Hayden and she's the 2004 Leather Dyke Girl, chosen last Saturday, January 24 at the Victoria Theatre in San Francisco's Mission District.

There were two candidates for the Girl title (Ms. Hayden and Ms. Artemesia), and one for the Boy title (Boy Candace). Unfortunately, the boy candidate failed to receive the mandatory 60 percent of the total points available, and so there is no Leather Dyke boy for 2004.

The Leather Dyke Family Charity Events group made a wise decision when they chose the Diamond Daggers for the opening number. This talented dance group romped through the Chicago classic, "He Had It Coming," and the audience was practically in hysterics as they performed exquisitely. Later in the show, they were no less magnificent in executing the dance routine.

Mistress Midori was the Mistress of Ceremonies, swathed in a tight red latex gown, blonde hair and a laid-back demeanor that may have been taking place backstage.

The women were subjected to judging in interviews, appearance, fantasies and speeches by judges Jack Garcia (head judge), The Marine, JD Dykes, Robbi Montoya, and Ms. Evan, plus two random judges selected by lottery at the meet-&greet on Friday.

Vick Germany was the Tally Master, and a host of volunteers served in many other capacities. Leather women and men from the West Coast were in attendance.

Another entertainer, the divine Billie, performed a belly dance that had the whoops and hollers echoing throughout the hall.

Later, a representative of the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund accepted a check for \$1,000 from proceeds of this contest.

In their stepping-aside speeches, Dyke Girl Lori and Dyke Boy Shayne were poignant, concise and overwhelmed by their year with the titles. Both thanked numerous persons and recounted their successes with fundraising. It was a great pair of stepping aside



Mister Marcus

Ms. Hayden was chosen "SF Leather Dyke Girl" last Saturday night, January 24 at the Victoria Theatre in San Francisco.

speeches and neither went over 10 minutes. These two women served well with the title and it is hoped that successors will do as good or better. A giant bouquet of long-stem roses was presented to them from Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt. Standing ovations all around.

After the contest there was a play party — for women only — so no dish here.

The next morning, Sunday, a group of the faithful showed up at the 2223 Market restaurant where Ms. Bernice fussed over everyone to insure they were taken care of. The staff of the 2223 were very friendly and capable.

So San Francisco's leather women put on a show and it was a good one. The "fearless leaders" Mitch Dunbar and Ren Davis are to be commended for their perseverance, dedication, hard work and pride in producing a quality event for the women of San Francisco and beyond.

Elsewhere...

In Dallas, Texas at the Dallas Eagle another hunky stud was added to the IML 2004 roster

when Rick Iber was chosen Mr. Texas Leather 2004 in a 2-day extravaganza of leather. Mr. Iber advances to compete for IML 2004 in Chicago next May.

In Los Angeles, the 3rd of 9 contests took place at the world-famous Faultline as Mark Watrell took the title in a group of five who tried for it.

The week before at Oil Can Harry's in the Valley, four men stepped forward to compete for the title, but when the scores were counted, former Mr. L.A. Leather Jeff Wacha placed the gold medal around the neck of Mark Diamond. The first runner-up was Avatar member Bob Weber. Six more to go before the March 27 contest at the El Rey Theatre.

Northward, in Anchorage, Alaska, the Mr. Alaska Leather 2004 contest took place at Mad Myra's on Saturday Night as the Last Frontier MC staged their annual contest. When all the votes were tallied, Kurt Hiller was chosen Mr. Alaska Leather 2004, but will not compete at IML until May 2005.

Mr. Bear Alaska is Tim Slade; Alaska Bear Cub is Delmar Neely, and Mr. Alaska Levi is Gene Rachinsky.

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, January 29

Round 3 in the Bare Chest Calendar contests at the Powerhouse at 2130 at the Powerhouse. Participate and win a spot on the 2005 calendar to help raise money for worthy charities.

Friday, January 30

At the Hoist Bar in London, John Pendal steps aside from the Mr. Hoist Leather title, but no other details furnished.

Mr. SF Leather 2003, Troy Aricete, celebrates his birthday with a party at the Powerhouse Bar beginning around 2200. Congratulations!

Sunday, February 1

The Golden Gate Guards host the beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500-1800 at the Eagle with an \$8 beer/soda bust. Be there.

In Denver, they're celebrating Leather Pride Rocky Mountain Style to benefit the Leather Archives & Museum with an \$8 beer/soda bust

hosted by Mr. Triangle 2004 Michael Vrooman.

Thursday, February 5

The 4th Round in the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar marathon at 2130 tonight at the Powerhouse. Jump in and have fun.

Weekend, February 6-8

In Kansas City, MO, it's the Heart of America Family Weekend with contestants from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas. It should be a rollicking good time in the Heartland.

Saturday, February 7

Mr. Leather Toronto Remi Collette and Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn team up for a joint fundraiser at Daddy's from 1600-1800 to benefit PAWS. It's a \$7 beer/soda bust, entertainment, raffles, and surprises. It's called "Blame Canada." You be there!

BOOKS

Word power

by Jim Nawrocki

Queer Crips: Disabled Gay Men and Their Stories, edited by Bob Guter and John R. Killacky; Harbin Park Press, \$19.95

Here's a particular question facing the reviewer of a book like *Queer Crips: Disabled Gay Men and Their Stories*. It has less to do with the fact that these are gay men than that they are disabled men, many of them writers and artists, who have endured not only physical hardship, but the emotional and psychological difficulties that come with it. The question is: What kind of critical standard should one apply to creative work that springs from this unique human experience?

The answer that most disabled writers and artists would likely offer is, "Apply to my work the same standard that you would apply to anyone's work." But the fact is, these are people who have faced obstacles that most of us never encounter. Anyone who examines the creative work of disabled artists has to take into account that it has been produced under extraordinary circumstances.

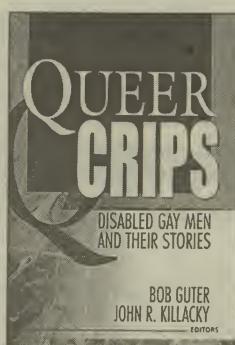
Most of the writings collected in *Queer Crips* by editors Bob Guter and John R. Killacky are not strictly creative or artistic pieces, but first-person accounts of what it's like for gay men to live with a disability. Some men tell of living with their disabilities from birth, while others describe the painful process of becoming disabled. In his brief preface, Guter describes the collection as "a refuge and a

billboard for neglected crip gay voices" that has performed the valuable service of helping gay disabled men not only find their stories, but find their community in the stories of other gay disabled men.

While there is undoubtedly plenty of material here that will help gay disabled men develop a sense of solidarity, non-disabled readers will find vivid and memorable descriptions of a world that, in all likelihood, they seldom think about. Chris Hewitt's essay "Sticks and Stones" is particularly good. Hewitt, who suffers from "brittle bone disease" and has relied on a wheelchair for most of his life, describes several remarkable instances of insensitivity and ignorance that he has faced. These range from the taunts of teenagers to the rude comment, offered by a "dignified-looking elderly man" who said, "Well, you certainly got the short end of the stick, didn't you?" Hewitt describes these encounters not with self-pity, but with humor, strength, dignity, and personality.

Well-connected

In "Careening Toward Kensho: Ruminations on Disability and Community," Killacky describes his own struggle to deal with a paralysis that resulted from surgical complications. The Zen concept of kensho, which Killacky learns from one of his teachers is "seeing into one's real nature through self-awakening in the body," sums up Killacky's gradual acceptance of his condition. His heartfelt essay describes his journey into community and "connectivity to the world" as he copes with his new dependence on others.



Queer Crips includes a wide range of perspectives: there's an interview with a psychotherapist on the "fetishistic" aspects of relationships with the disabled, as well as an interview with members of a dance company creating work that accommodates disabled performers; there's an essay by Thomas Metz on "life as a married crip," and there's a description of the formation of a cyber-community for gay men with disabilities. There are also dramatic performance pieces, fiction, and several poems. Four poems by Hewitt beautifully explore the dimensions of his particular disability with simple but memorable metaphors.

In addition to an essay by Max E. Verga about the photographer George Dureau, who specializes in photographing disabled gay men, there are also nude portraits of some of the contributors. These pictures, like Dureau's work, take an unflinching look at the disabled male body. They are a welcome challenge, as are all of the works collected in *Queer Crips*, to the current gay culture's veneration of physical "perfection."

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Bare Chest Calendar rounds 2 & 3

Another big crowd at the Powerhouse last Thursday, January 22 when round two of the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar contest took place. James Michel and Steve Reeder faced judges Didier Carnagno, Tim Ault, Glennon Sutter, Tyrone Smith and Chris Harrill. Both men managed to sell some \$442 in raffle tickets and both qualified to compete for a spot on the calendar when all segment winners will participate.

The 3rd Round is tonight, Thursday, January 29 at 2130 at the Powerhouse. Encourage your well-built buddies to compete!

The social season for leather and other segments of the community are coming fast and furious. Be generous with the benefits and encourage others to do the same. Until next week, keep living, laughing, loving and participating — just do it in leather! ▼



The Diamond Daggers, an extremely talented dance group, opened the show at the Dyke Boy & Girl contest at the Victoria Theatre last Saturday, January 24 and brought the house down.

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Out There

◀ page 26

E. Haring 'Red' Chandor. Red, LIZ tells us, was a champion of the "social measurements contests" that often took place in the night-club's Men's Room, where the likes of Porfirio Rubirosa, Forrest Tucker and Sonny Tufts lined up to claim physical superiority."

What exactly does this mean? Does LIZ mean Red and his buddies whipped 'em out, lined 'em up, and compared cock size? More

to the point, and despite the fact that calling LIZ one butch gal is really something of an understatement, how on Earth does LIZ know what transpired in the boys' room? After all, this was presumably before the advent of the unisex bathroom. Was LIZ passing as a butch king over at the urinals when the measurements got hauled out? Our final puzzlement is what passes for society gossip in a family newspaper.

We're obliged to retract some unconfirmed gossip of our own, which we passed along in a blind Pitt." We know the problem. ▼

item about a certain Australian pop diva coming soon to the SF Pride stage. Sources say the visitation will still happen someday, but not anytime soon. In the meantime: patience, possums.

Finally, in reference to that recent *Chron* cover story on SF character **Strange de Jim** (which hit the stands a mere four weeks after our own), de Jim told us "the photographer took hundreds of shots. I guess he had to keep snapping until he finally got one where I didn't look exactly like Brad Pitt." We know the problem. ▼

photo © David Morgan

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Pop pictures

While everyone including Oscar® and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association is rightly lauding Charlize Theron for her star turn as lesbian serial killer Eileen Wuornos in *Monster* (Newmarket Films), let us not forget that it was San Francisco composer and librettist Carla Lucero who created the politically and socially charged opera *Wuornos*, which premiered in June 2001 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts as part of the National Queer Arts Festival. The cast featured Kristin Norderval as Aileen Wuornos, and Sarah Helen Land as Syrena, Aileen's lover. The project did much to educate the public, and is one of the great legacies of the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, where the opera got off the ground thanks to the tireless efforts of former Sims Center Executive Director Lauren Hewitt, who put her heart, soul and pocketbook into the project.

I'm thrilled to see a well-aging Bill Murray get an Oscar® nod and the Golden Globe Best Actor in a Comedy honor for his masterful, nuanced effort in Sofia Coppola's lovely *Lost In Translation* (American Zoetrope/Elemental Films). The ennui is thick in a hotel in Japan as middle-aged fading screen star Murray whisks away the hours between takes of a liquor commercial he's filming. In the hotel he encounters young, married Scarlett Johansson, left adrift by her geeky, skirt-chasing husband (Giovanni Ribisi). The generation gap between Murray and Johansson is thick, and negotiating their mutual attraction — he for her beauty and sweet/sad nature, she for his air of musty Hollywood glamour and gentlemanly demeanor — becomes the thrust of the movie. Will they or will they not "do it"? That's the answer you'll wait to find out, and the waiting is a quiet joy.

On a pop environmental-art note, check out the bus shelter art at 5th & Harrison, 5th & Folsom, 5th & Howard, 5th & Mission, and 5th & Market. The series is titled "Two Quick Centuries in 7 Long Blocks," part of "Bayboards" — a project of www.StillHere.org and the SF Estuary Institute (SFEI). The work is by Landscape Ecologist and Historian Robin Grossinger and his artist colleagues Elise Brewster and Susan Schwartzzenberg. When I met Robin in the early '90s, he was a super-cute, straight-but-sensitive 25-year-old marine biologist (MS from UC Santa Cruz) with a passion for punk rock, whose sister is the acclaimed performance/film artist Miranda July. Robin has been working on a major Bay Area wetlands habitat restoration project at SFEI, and the bus shelter pieces reflect his passion for unearthing the history beneath the sidewalks we walk on every day. At 5th & Townsend, there's a giant billboard titled "You're at the edge of Mission Bay — 150 years ago — and 6 feet below you." This Graphite and Prismacolor drawing by Brewster reconstructs the view from 5th and Townsend as you drive down fifth. Formerly the edge of the Bay, the water's edge is now over a half-mile away. ▼



Bradford Shreve and Jason Wong star in NCTC's Pride Season 9 production, Jack Heifner's *SEDUCTION*, directed by Christopher Jenkins. See Saturday.

Sa

WOW Festival @ Venue 9

Footloose presents the "Women on the Way Festival," tonight featuring Mountains and Rivers Without End by Anima Mundi Dance Company, Taiko Diary by the SF Women's Drum Troup directed by Carol Ayers, Aqua & Doojan by Rebecca Pappas and Dancer, and THREE, written and performed by Lauren Crux. \$15-\$20 sliding, 8pm. (7 p.m. Sun.) Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard), Tix: 289-2000. The WOW Fest continues through the week, with shows on Saturday and Sunday nights, and again on Thursday night, January 22. For program details, visit www.Venue9.com

'Unnatural Born Killers' @ YBCA Screening Room

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents "Unnatural Born Killers," a film series curated by Steven Jay Schneider. Tonight: 7pm show: *Dust Devil* by Richard Stanley (1993, 103 min., 35mm), with the director present at this US premiere of the uncensored version. 9:15pm show: *Next* (aka *Frau Plastic Chicken Show*), by Arpad Schilling (2001, 118 min., 35mm), \$7 gen.; \$4 senior/student/Center members. 901 Mission St. at Third. Info: 978-2787; www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Poets' Theater Jamboree @ Small Press Traffic/CCA

Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center at California College of the Arts (CCA) presents part III of IV of "Poets' Theater Jamboree," SPT's annual showcase of poets as playwrights, directors, producers and actors. It's wild! It's lovely! Tonight: Drew Cushing, *Harm Variations*; Bill Luoma, *Radio Grasshopper*; Dawn Lundy Martin, *Killing Jemima Twice*; K. Silem Mohammad, *Who Is Read?* Erin Wilson & Jean Lieske, *Pink Stories*; and Ronaldo V. Wilson, *Erase: A Play in Two Parts*. \$10 to benefit SPT. 7:30pm. Timken Lecture Hall, CCA, 1111 Eighth St (just off intersection of 16th & Wisconsin). Res: 415-551-9278; Info: www.spttraffic.org

'GAWK-A-Go-Go' @ Magnet

The Gay Artists and Writers Collective (GAWK) presents 'GAWK-A-Go-Go', a loosely connected social group for people involved in the arts. Featuring singer Tiffany Joy, the "Folk-a-Delic" sounds of the Flower Cops, *Bodybuilding*, a celluloid creation by David Lamble, comedy by Andy Rose, and a phantasmagorical talk by Brittan Spears-lookalike, Jon Sugar, about childhood, gonorrhea, hepatitis, and responsible hash use. The last event drew almost 70

people, so come early! Free. 7:30pm-9:30pm. 4122 18th St. Info: Jon Sugar at (415) 731-2424.

MAX Shanti Fundraiser @ Saks Fifth Ave.

Join the stylish men of MAX for a "TGIF and Private Shopping Event" at Saks Fifth Avenue Men's Store in SF. Browse clothes, chat with friends, sip a martini or glass of wine and enjoy the appetizers. Meet authors Patrick Moore and Richard Meyer. \$20 donation at door. Proceeds benefit Shanti. 6pm. 220 Post St. (at Grant).

Immune Enhancement Project Fundraiser

Celebrate Chinese New Year with wine, appetizers and entertainment. Help support the Immune Enhancement Project (IEP), a nonprofit Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) clinic. First founded in 1983 as a grassroots response to the AIDS epidemic, IEP is a widely respected resource in the fields of HIV treatment and TCM, offering such services as acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, Massage Therapy, Qi-gong, Hypnotherapy, and Reiki. \$25-\$50 sliding. 5-8pm. Info/RSVP: 415-252-8711, ext 352.

'Body, Breath, Mind' @ Unitarian Center

The San Francisco Zen Center celebrates Buddhist practice in America with its fourth annual lecture and workshop series, "Body, Breath, Mind." Tonight, featuring dynamic speaker, popular poet and Fortune 500 consultant David Whyte speaking on and reading from his new book of poetry, *Everything Is Waiting For You*. Whyte has been praised for bringing poetry and spiritual inquiry into the corporate world. \$16. 7:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix/info: 863-3133; www.sfcz.org

Sa

Jack Heifner's 'SEDUCTION' @ NCTC

Opening night: *SEDUCTION*, an adaptation by Jack Heifner of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, commissioned by NCTC, featuring an all-male, gay version told in ten interlocking scenes. There are two characters per scene with one character moving into the next scene to link seduction from one story to the next. A comedic, sexy tour-de-force based on one of the most popular roundelay's of all time, Austrian playwright Schnitzler (1862-1931) is best known for his *La Ronde* (made famous in Max Ophuls' film version) which reveals the darkest recesses of the sexually ravenous Viennese heart. The play traces a circle of lovers,

casual and otherwise, across Vienna. It is day, Austrian censors found it crude and pornographic. \$18-\$28. Thurs March 28. 8pm Sat; 2pm Sun. (Thurs, March 4 show captioned for hearing impaired.) New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Ave (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'Reversing Vandalism' @ Hormel Center, Main Library

Opening reception: "Reversing Vandalism," more than 200 original works of art created from books mainly on GLBT topics, women's issues and HIV/AIDS, that were destroyed by a vandal and withdrawn from the SF Public Library's collection. Artists and concerned individuals from around the country worked to turn the damaged books into works of art. The wide variety of responses to this hate crime targeting GLBT, HIV/AIDS and women's communities vividly demonstrates the transformative power of art. Curated by Everett Erlandson and Jim Van Buskirk. Reception from 2-4pm in the Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting room, lower level. Exhibition runs thru May 2 in the Jewett Gallery (lower level); James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center (Third Floor) and Grove Street Entrance (First Floor). Info: sfp14.sfp1.org/news/exhibitions.htm

Seely Quest's 'Crooked' @ JSC

Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) presents "Crooked" by Seely Quest, a solo show of dance, drag, clowning, singing, x-rays, poetry, character dialogues, and shedding clothes. Can crooked physical, mental, sexual and gendered experience be understood in relationship? This heady tangle of desire, inheritance, embodiment, deviance, crip and trans space will make you sweat.... Includes a visual art display. Seely Quest is an Oakland singer, choreographer, stripper, clown, writer, performance artist and organizer, who has been featured at The Center's opening week trans gala, Ladyfest Bay Area, the national fm-speculum conference True Spirit, 848 Community Space and more. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Info/Wheelchair Access: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimscenter.org

'Retreat in the City' @ Yoga Society of SF

Join John Marino and the staff and faculty of the Yoga Society of San Francisco for a day-long "Yoga Retreat in the City." Spend a day practicing hatha yoga and meditation and studying yoga philosophy in the same way as the ancient yogis of India most likely would have. The day begins and ends with a fire ceremony, chanting and silent meditation. Guided hatha yoga and pranayama practice. Ayurvedic lunch served. Participants should have some experience with yoga postures. \$90 suggested donation (NOTAFLOP). 9am-5pm. 2876 Folsom St. Info: John Marino, 752-3262; email jrmst@sbcglobal.net



Swing and two-step with Johnny Dilks and his Visitation Valley Boys live at The Center! See Saturday!

Sun

SF Hiking Club @ Año Nuevo State Reserve

Join other outdoors lovers for an Año Nuevo State Reserve Hike. It's breeding season for the elephant seals. Easy 3-mile hike with no elevation gain. Reservations required: call Jim at 415-643-1942. Meet 9am under the large Swallow sign at Market & Dolores Sts. Info: 487-6410.

'Queer Country Swing' @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs presents "Queer Country Swing" with live band! Enjoy the Honky-Tonk rhythms of Johnny Dilks and his Visitation Valley Boys live! Performances by the Saddletramps and Barbary Coast Cloggers! Easy and fun basic lessons with no partner or experience needed! 7pm East Coast Swing lesson! 8pm Two Step and West Coast Swing lessons! 9pm to Midnight Party with Big Band Swing DJ too! \$15 donation. Half off if under 21 or if any age in FULL Western Attire! LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

WOW Festival @ Venue 9

Closing night: Footloose concludes the "Women on the Way Festival," with Special Guest Nina Wise, Dance is Story by NATYA, Mountains and Rivers Without End by Anima Mundi Dance Company, and THREE, by Lauren Cox. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. (7 p.m. Sun.) Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix: 289-2000. The WOW Fest continues through the week, with shows on Saturday and Sunday nights, and again on Thursday night, January 22. For program details, visit www.Venue9.com

Angie Kraas & Hyena Comedy All-Stars @ Hyena Theater

Angie Kraas hosts the "Hyena Comedy All-Stars," guaranteed to make you "Laugh Till You Pee!" Starring Paul Ollinger, Roscoe Bing, Erin Shannon, Aimee Porter, Rennie Rausch, Jon Butler, Margret Woller, Liam Goodman, and Nick Leonard. \$6. 8pm. Hyena Theater, 2390 Mission St., #304 (at 20th St.). Tix/info: 821-3601.

'Club Papi VIP Card Party' @ Space 550

"Club Papi VIP Card Party"! Everyone in attendance gets the new Papi VIP Card, good for free admission and discounts to clubs all over California. 3 Caliente Dance Floors! The Papi Dancers + drink specials! 1st 500 people get the new Live @ Club Papi CD. \$15. 21+ w/ID. Doors open 10pm, close 4am. Info: 675-9763; www.clubpapi.com

Mon

Buddhist Movie Night @ MCC-SF

Film screening (on the big screen) of *Peace Is Every Step*, the award-winning documentary movie on the life and teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh, the famous Buddhist Master from Vietnam, who was nominated by Martin Luther King Jr. for the Nobel Peace Prize. Narrated by Ben Kingsley. "Beautiful".... "moving".... "must-see film".... "Thich Nhat Hanh is one of the most beloved Buddhist teachers in the world alive today, and he is also a strong supporter of the queer community." Free, open to the public. 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St. @ 18th St. (In The Castro). Info: www.QSangha.org

Tue

'Buzz!' & 'Get Real' @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's 2003-04 Educational Season presents the return of *Buzz!* written by British playwright Andrew Alty, and *Get*

Real! by Doug Holsclaw; both directed by Doyle Ott. **Buzz!** tells the story of Caly, a teenager who is bored with her life and tries a drug called Buzz. At critical points in the drama the action stops and the audience is invited to advise and assist Caly in her struggle with Buzz. Appropriate for 6-8 graders. **Get Real!** uses funny sketches with popular characters to address AIDS issues in an adventure-type format. All performances followed by a discussion led by an HIV+ educator. Appropriate for 4-6 graders. \$7 youth; \$10 adults. Showtimes: 10am & 11:30am. Show dates: **Buzz!** plays Feb 3-5, 10-12, March 2-4, 9-11. **Get Real!** plays Feb. 17-19, 24-26, March 16-18, 23-25. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 861-4914, ext 109.

John Santos & John Calloway @ Jazz At Intersection'

Jazz At Intersection Spring 2004 Series in association with Noir Records presents John Santos (percussion); founder of The Machete Ensemble) and John Calloway (piano, flute, percussion) in a special dual performance featuring original compositions, interpretations of Cuban, Puerto Rican, and jazz classics, and lots of improvisation. Santos, a SF native, was raised in the Puerto Rican and Cuban Verdane traditions of his family. His musical resume is enormously impressive—and long!—but suffice to say he's a member of the Latin Jazz Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian Institution. Likewise, Bay Area native Calloway is a potent force in the jazz world; he teaches at SFSU and the Jazz School in Berkeley, and frequently travels to Cuba as program coordinator for PlazaCuba, an arts company that offers courses in conjunction with the National School of the Arts in Havana. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15/16). Tix/info: 626-3311; www.theintersection.org



Fred Curchack stars in Gauguin's Shadow at The Marsh. See Thursday.

ing an interactive media station. The 100 Treasures encompass dances and choreographers (ranging from Fred Astaire and Isadora Duncan to Martha Graham and Bill T. Jones), dance companies and presenters (from Dance Theatre of Harlem to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival), designers and critics (from Jennifer Tipton to Edwin Denby), and even forms of dance (Hip-Hop, Hula, Native American Traditional). Virtually all of the 100 Treasures are represented in SF-PALM's collection, and in SF the exhibition will be supplemented by a selection of items from SF-PALM's holdings. Free admission. Exhibition runs Feb. 4-May 5, 11am-5pm Tue-Fri; 1-5pm Sat. A reception with live dance performances will be held Tue., Feb. 3, 6-8pm; reservations required (255-4800). SFPALM, Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), 4th floor. Info: www.sfpalm.org

sion; \$30 VIP pass (head-of-the-line privileges; best table seating; two sets of Bingo cards). 7pm, 150 Eureka St. Tix: www.Badabingo.org

'Gauguin's Shadow' @ The Marsh

Preview: The Marsh presents *Gauguin's Shadow*, the latest theatrical and multimedia creation from Fred Curchack. Featuring mask work, puppetry, interactive video, theatrical imagination, and the Post-Impressionist imagery of French painter Paul Gauguin, whose legend since his death 100 years ago has been shrouded in myths of his abandoned marriage, his wild friendships, and South Seas debaucheries. Curchack paints a portrait of the man behind the myth with this adaptation of Gauguin's own words. Curchack has created more than 70 original theatre works, 23 of them solos. His performances have been featured at dozens of international theater festivals. He has won many awards and has studied Indian Kathakali, Japanese Noh, Balinese Topeng, choreography with Alwyn Nikolais, and he trained with Grotowski's Polish Theater Lab. \$15-\$22 sliding. Previews Feb. 5&6. Open Feb. 7. Closes Feb. 21. 8pm Thu-Sat. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. (btwn 21st/22nd). Tix: 826-5750; www.themarsh.org

'Black = Africa: Visions of the Diaspora' @ Cesar Chavez Student Art Gallery, SFSU

Opening reception: Cesar Chavez Student Center Art Gallery at San Francisco State University, in commemoration of Black History month, presents *Black = Africa: Visions of the Diaspora*, an exhibition featuring the Bay Area artist collective Omirroo, consisting of six artists of the Afrikan Diaspora: esuu, Keba Konte, Bryan Keith Thomas, Githini Wa Mbire, Selamalem Mekonen, and Zuman Cole. They aim to honor the legacy of their ancestral roots, as well as to create an awareness of the Black experience in North America, as it relates to Afrikan ideologies. Their works contain a visual vocabulary utilizing sacred & secular symbols, traditional & pop icons, and other imagery with elements culturally specific to "Africa" and the Black Diaspora experience. Free. 5-8pm. Exhibition runs thru March 2, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thur-Fri 10am-3pm. Cesar Chavez Student Center Art Gallery (Terrace Level), SF State University. Info: 338-2580; www.sfsustudentcenter.com/art-gallery

'Arts of Pacific Asia' Opening Gala @ Fort Mason Center

Benefit Preview Gala: Caskey & Lees present the "Eighth Annual San Francisco Arts of Pacific Asia Show," open to the public February 6-8 at historic Fort Mason Center. More than 80 top international dealers and galleries will be exhibiting. Tonight's gala benefits the education programs at the Asian Art Museum Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture. \$175 gala opening. Public showing: \$12 gen'l admission. 6:30-10pm Gala Opening; 11am-7pm Fri & Sat; 11am-5pm Sun (no admittance after 4:30pm). Info: 310-455-2886; www.caskeylees.com

'Les FAUXlies Fantastique' @ Venue 9

AaaahZ, Inc. presents *Les FAUXlies Fantastique*, the City's new gender-bending Parisian-style cabaret and musical revue, featuring live singing, dancing and theatrical numbers by a world-class male and female vocal duo with performance art/dance pieces from the show's scene-stealing, Vegas-inspired "Showgirls Who Aren't Really Girls At All!" Elaborate sequin-and-rhinestone-drenched costumes. Special Upcoming Events: Saturday, Feb 14: "Les FAUXlies LGBT Valentine's Night Special" — \$40 per couple. Saturday, March 6: "Les FAUXlies LGBT & Drag Community Appreciation Night" — 1/2-Price Tickets. Choreographed & Directed by James Dubé; Produced by Jim Burris & Mike Sauger. *Les FAUXlies Fantastique* completed an initial run at the San Francisco Actor's Theatre on January 25, 2004. \$40 (call for daily ticket specials, including 1/2-price admission for most shows). Runs Feb 5-March 7. Showtimes: Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2:30pm. 252-9th St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). TIX Union Square (333 Post St.); AaaahZ Ticket Hotline, 415-248-1942; www.OceanAmerica.com "Box Offices." Info: www.AaaahZ.com

Stephen Petronio Dance Company @ YBCA Theater

San Francisco Performances presents the inventive and risk-taking choreography of Stephen Petronio in *City of Twist*, *The Island of Misfit Toys*, and *Broken Man*, a program inspired by the changed and shifting landscapes and people of New York, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, February 5-8. Known for abstract dances, Petronio reacted emotionally to the September 11 attacks in creating *City of Twist*, a piece extreme and subtle, wild and quiet, with the rhythm of urban humanity. *Misfit Toys* is a visceral, tumultuous Gothic nursery tale set to music by Laurie Anderson, completed by visual artist/photographer Cindy Sherman working in sculpture for the first time. *Broken Man*, set to music by Lou Reed, is Petronio's first solo for himself in several years and features music by Bixia Bargeld. \$24 & \$45; Family Matinee \$15 adults. Thu-Sat, 5-7 at 8pm; Sun, Feb 8 at 2pm; Family Matinee on Sat, Feb 7 at 2pm. YBCA Theater, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 398-6449; www.petronio.org

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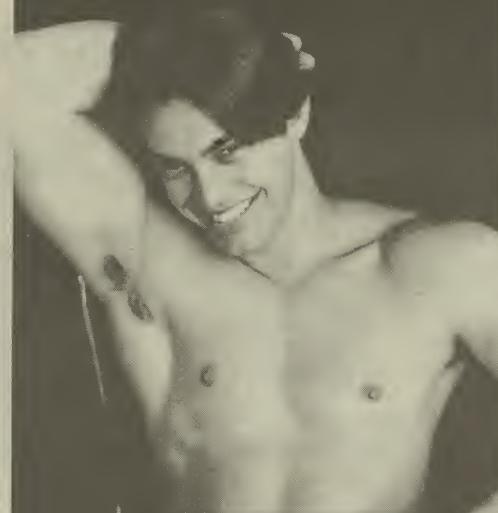


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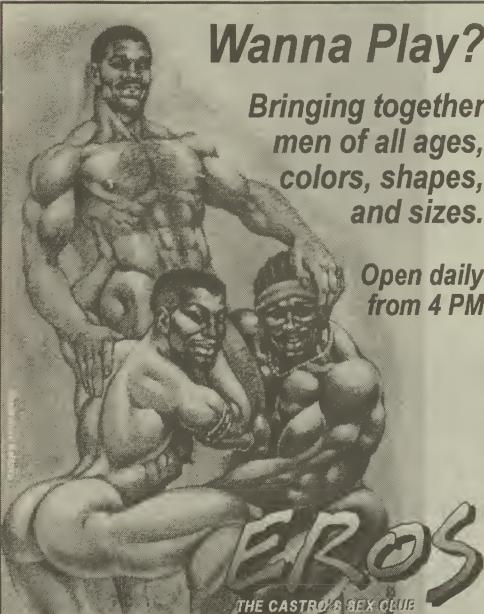
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The Stephen Petronio Dance Company performs *City of Twist*, *The Island of Misfit Toys*, and *Broken Man* at YBCA Theater. See Thursday.

TV as a weapon of mass distraction

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Politics is the focus on the tube these days. A rockin' new *American Idol*, an intriguing coming-out on *Line of Fire* and the cast of *Will & Grace* on *Oprah* couldn't match the excitement of the bloodsport splattering TV 24/7.

A few weeks back we noted here that the Presidential race would dominate the tube, but even we could not have predicted the events that

have taken over TV in the past week. Despite George Bush's State of the Union speech being nothing but a 56-minute catalogue of lies on every network, Bush got the usual Teflon treatment by the so-called liberal media, while the entire week — news, late-night comedy, morning shows, even prime-time — was galvanized by a three-minute speech made by



Lavender Tube

What to us seemed a rousing "don't-give-up-the-fight" speech in Iowa. Was he exuberant? Yes. Was he crazy? Not in our seasoned perception.

Dean's speech has been replayed incessantly. It was termed "disastrous" and a "possible career-ender" on the January 23 *Nightline*, which was devoted solely to examining it. Meanwhile, David Kay, Bush's hand-picked weapons inspector in Iraq, had

announced earlier that day that no evidence of weapons of mass destruction had been nor, he believed, would ever be found in Iraq. That shattering announcement (readers may remember that the threat of WMDs was the reason for the US war on Iraq) didn't rate exploration on *Nightline*, however, because the Dean speech still had TV legs.

We admit the comedic takes on the speech were amusing. We laughed at Leno and Letterman and howled at Jimmy Kimmel's faux TV series starring a young Dean (whoever the impersonator was, he had the scream down). But we cringed over the excruciating *Prime Time* exclusive with Diane Sawyer in which Dr. Judith Steinberg Dean was dragged out of the medical closet to reprise Hillary Clinton's stand-by-your-man moment. Steinberg is very genuine, down-to-earth and utterly un-First Ladyish. She's immensely likable, but Sawyer was clearly discomfited by the simplicity of her answers and the just-plain-folks reality of the Steinberg-Dean marriage. Sawyer was looking for dirt and pushing the speech as an example of Dean's alleged hot-headedness, but Steinberg asserted that they never even fight, that Dean couldn't be more calm. Sawyer's disappointment that Steinberg doesn't have to give her husband regular tranquilizing shots was palpable.

When Bill Clinton and Hillary did their *60 Minutes* interview 13 years ago, Jennifer Flowers, Bill's alleged mistress, had just told all to the tabloids; Dean had simply been overly enthusiastic for three minutes. How repressed have we become, and what exactly are our priorities?

The President told lies so egregious that we began to question the existence of God since he wasn't struck dead on the podium (although Sen. Ted Kennedy did look like he was going to have a stroke) and got no flogging by any of the TV reporters, commentators and pundits still flaying Dean. As they say on UPN: What's up with that?

The 2004 election is going to be won or lost on the tube. Peter Jennings tried to make the New Hampshire debate about Dean's speech, but Dean turned it to issues. If that isn't Presidential, what is? Certainly not John Kerry's waffling on the Patriot Act. Despite being raked over the coals, in the debate Dean still decided to bring up queer civil unions in Vermont and his continued support of them as President. Risky. Integrity so often is.

Traffic report

With so much inanity on the



Dean's 'I Have a Scream' speech played incessantly on TV last week.

an alleged lesbian murder. Exchange student Jamie Penich, 21, was stomped to death in the tiny bathroom of her hotel room while traveling in South Korea with fellow students in 2001. Kensy Snyder, 19, another American student in the same program, was charged with her murder.

Snyder alleges she was duped into signing a confession after days of interrogation by FBI and military police, who told her she had killed Penich after the girl had made sexual advances to her and tried to take off her pants. Snyder, who had no attorney present during the interrogations, has recanted the confession and asserts her innocence. Her trial in South Korea ended in acquittal, but the prosecution is seeking to overturn the verdict. Penich's family believe Snyder is guilty, that she was the sexual aggressor and killed Penich in a fit of rage after being rejected.

But, as the *Prime Time* story detailed, the hotel was near an American military base, and the girls had been drinking with soldiers. The hotel owner heard a man arguing with Penich in her room and saw a man in military dress leave that room. In addition, a large, bloody bootprint was found near Penich's body.

Was Penich murdered by her lesbian lover or by a man from the American military base after she didn't provide sex after drinks? The report by John Quinones suggests the latter. The case comes to trial again next month. But can Snyder get a fair trial when the Penich family believes her guilty and American military powers-that-be urgently want to avoid yet another scandal involving soldiers sexually assaulting and even killing women while stationed in Asian nations? Stay tuned.

Gay action

ABC's *Line of Fire* last week found FBI man Emil MacArthur (Michael Irby) caught *en flagrante* in a gay bathhouse (it looked so realistic we thought we'd been there ourselves) when a robber holds the place up. The action was superb: one conflict after another over his sexual orientation (something he is wrestling with himself in real time on the show, which is terrific to watch). Concerns over his status (he's top on his FBI squad) if the word gets out via with his own increasingly intense desires.

We've been whining for months that *ER*'s lesbian character Kerri Weaver dropped off the canvas. Portrayer Laura Innes has been directing more than she's been acting on the show, but last week found Weaver with her paramedic lover Sandy (Lisa Vidal) giving birth to the couple's daughter. Given how long these characters have been on *ER* and the previous intensity of their storyline, we're hoping the birth will revamp their story. Soon.

Finally, Captain Kangaroo, Bob Keeshan, died January 23. Although neither the Captain nor his portrayer was gay, Captain Kangaroo's nonviolent (some would say sissified) approach to children's programming (we watched him at our friend's house as we waited for the schoolbus each morning and loved him) made it okay for boys to be more like Mr. Greenjeans than action heroes, and okay for girls to get down in the dirt just like boys. We'll miss the Captain, but we'll miss his attitude even more. ▼

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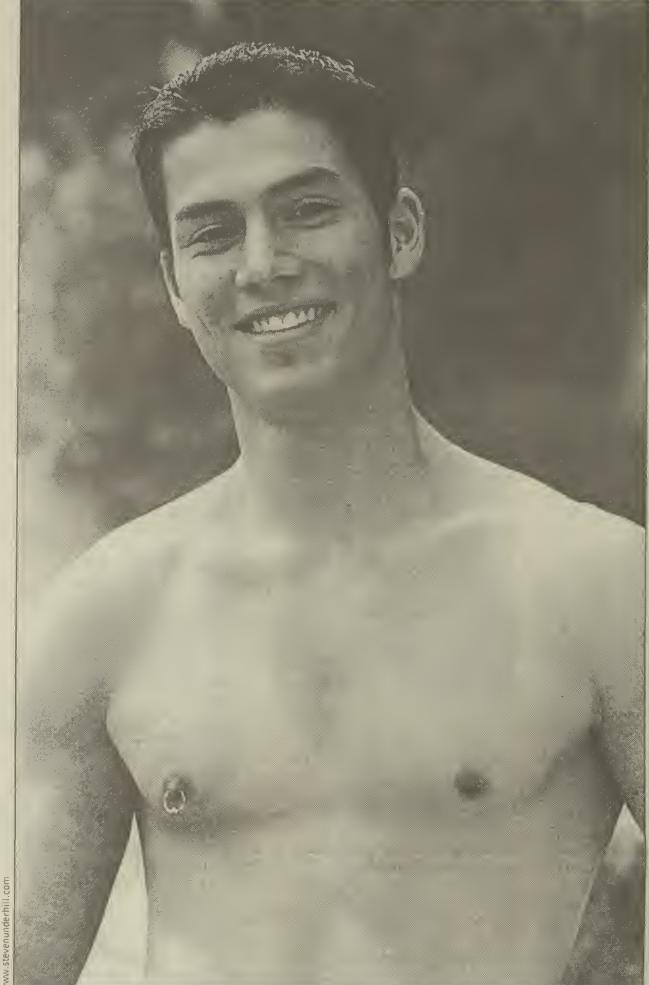
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BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

12/18 Park Hyatt PVT Party
You B-tender at ice bar. Great smile, handsome, friendly. Need to see you. Please call. ☎ 71031

Castro Theatre Sat. 1/10
Talked briefly at concession stand before movie "Devo". You: slim, medium height, dark (Tamil? Bengali?)? Me: older, short beard, glasses. Would like to meet, talk more. ☎ 71049

Troy: EROS 1-11-04
Carlos with the intense brown eyes wants to see more of you... If you're interested. ☎ 71050

Mr. Mill Valley, SAT. 1/10, SOMA Your Outstanding I'd like to reconnect. Please call. ☎ 71058

Saturday 1/10 Bus #48 4:40 pm
You chubby white man aboard bus at Potrero and 24th street. Seated Front. Asked me the time. I reply 20 to 5:00. We looked at each other. You wore beige jacket, glasses w/cane. Me Latin w/bomber jacket, kakhi paints. We get off at the same stop. Would love to meet you. ☎ 72907

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Free Spaghetti
Win a delicious meal by answering this ad. If you are a slender, masculine guy 18 to 45. Cook is slender, masculine WM, 44. Into Friendship and Naked body contact. ☎ 72907

48 5'9" 150# GYM Toned Handsome Seeks wknd L.T.R. w/Friend/Lover during the wk. We each live our busy lives, looking forward to the wknd & being together. Be 18-60 in-shape & gd looking w/a cool attitude. I'm into art, reading, hiking, Zen & yoga, working out, & hot sex. S.F., Santa Rosa, San Raphael. ☎ 71033

VGL GHM in AZ ISO Hot Older Man 25, Aries. Boyish looks, charm and a bunch of fun too! Latino, tan, Hazel/Blk, 5'7", 135# seeking Hot Top, financially secure older man to spoil his boy. ☎ 71033

I'm Attracted To Mature Big Men Looking for 50-65, 225-285, burly, portly, plump men. I'm GLM 45, HIV-, 5'10", 200, very affectionate, clean cut, smooth, love to make love, cuddle, like to read, walk, nature, my work. ☎ 71040

Husky GLM Bottom
Sagittarius 38yo, 155 lbs, 5'8", nice round ass, slim body HIV+, healthy. Seeking guys under 40 smooth, slim body. Race and size is unimportant. No drugs or heavy drinkers. Gemini, Aries, Taurus, Leo. SF only. ☎ 71059

Seeking Friendship and More
33, Healthy HIV+, 160#, Brn, Brn eyes. Likes books, movies, theatre, cooking, and fitness. Looking to meet someone special. Age and race unimportant. ☎ 71060

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples
I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Looking for a smooth, muscular guy with huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth and wish to satisfy you. ☎ 71061

Sweet Husky Huggable Mini Bear
ISO friendship or LTR with HIV-GWM, GHM, 38-52. I enjoy movies, gardening, cooking, the ocean; Me: GWM, 5'9", S&P, blue, SF & Peninsula area. ☎ 71064

Muscular Italian AM Seeks Asian
To date on a regular basis. Please be smooth, fit and honest. 25-50, and know what you want. I'm 46 yo, passionate, sensual, sincere. You be mature, honest, and please no games/BS. No one night stands. ☎ 71062

Bound and Gagged
GWM, 46, 5'10", 160, lean, hairy seesmas masculine man for dating/possible relationship. Very turned on by role-play, tie up games, top and bottom, securely bound and gagged. Must love bondage. ☎ 71063

Positive Unite!
Silver Fox Top, 19 yrs positive and healthy, seeks positive bottom leading resourceful life filled with integrity. Deep throats challenged with erotic butt play. ☎ 71072

Looking for that Special Man
I am looking for that special man that I can spend the rest of my life with as my best friend and life partner. I am 5'11", 180#, Italian, HIV+, versatile. You should be GWM, GLM, 40-60. Can't wait to meet. Serious only. ☎ 71069

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 42, 5'10", 180#, Redhead, Mobile Home owner. Ex Navy. Enjoy drumming, talk radio, chess and tennis. Seeking Female. ☎ 71070

SEEKING ADVENTURE

30'ish White Guy-Music LO Ver-Yoga-lover looking for relationship that is serious, but not too serious. Sober only! No drugs! ☎ 71034

Fuck Me!!
6'1", 190 lb, German, Italian, is seeking more hung, smooth, slender guys to pump their rigid cocks into me on a regular basis. ☎ 71035

New Years Massage
Start the year off with a refreshing sensual erotic full body massage. Free for slim and trim masculine guys 18 to 40's by trim strong-handed masculine WM 44. ☎ 71036

ISO Pie In Bay Area
Serious but irate pie thrower seeks some for mutual fun and gratification. Not looking for love just pie. P.S. I never duck. ☎ 71041

Traveling Companion Sought
To share expenses for cruises, hotel, tours, etc. Any race to age 40. Plutonic relationship. Prefer gym goer and healthy eater. Must be non-smoker. No drugs either please. ☎ 71043

Cocksvucker Needed
Strip naked, get on your knees and open your mouth. Dominant trim waisted WM 44 with mushroom sausage seeks submissive trim waisted guy younger or same age. ☎ 71043

Looking For A Hung Guy?
If you're looking for a guy who is hung at least 9" inches, is sexy loves to services, party, 69, watch videos, call me ☎ 71051

Hot Mature Men
Passionate LM 46, 6', 165lbs. I enjoy giving slow, sensual oral pleasure to senior men. Bearded, kissing, loners. Husky non-gym a plus. Possible LTR. Not into pain, S&M or the gay lifestyle. ☎ 71067

Spanker Wanted for OJK
Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you and no reciprocity required. Me: 159 Lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can Do Scenes. ☎ 71065

ISO Serious Nipple Work Out Buddy
49 yo GWM, 220#, stocky, brn/bl, salt & pepper goatee, tats, piercing, huge erect nipples! ISO dominate, masculine nip, pig stud for serious w/out sessions with growth in mind! Smoker at/please call. ☎ 71048

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ISO major/spurted shots that almost take my head off; "process" your dick/balls "compassionately" to reap/earn this reward! ☎ 71056

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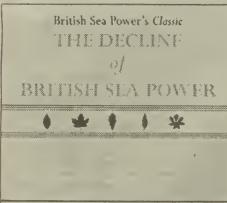
Brits out on disc

by Gregg Shapiro

As scattered as the current US music scene is, it's apparently more unified than what's coming out of the UK. From the lush and lurid music of Tindersticks to the vintage voltage of the Darkness, to the wave of Beach Boys-inspired bands the High Llamas and the Thrills, British pop is going through an identity crisis. We're fortunate to reap the rewards.



"My hands round your throat/If I kill you now, they'll never know" is the way that *Waiting for the Moon* (Beggars Group) by Tindersticks opens. Strings and keyboards dominate, although Tindersticks start a fire on "Trying to Find a Home" by doing a Velvet Underground impression that shoots sparks. The harmonica and banjo sway of "Just a Dog" is downright country.



If a British band could be considered the critics' darlings of last year, it would have been British Sea Power. With references to "the most attractive man" on "Men Together Today," one might detect a touch of homoeroticism on the first track of *The Decline of British Sea Power* (Rough Trade). Its intensity has been hard to come by in rock music of late, and it's refreshing. Punk meets postpunk at the garage door, and refuses to move aside. The drumbeat on "Fear of Drowning" conjures Joy Division.

As warm and sundappled as its previous releases, *Spoon and Rafter* (4AD/Beggars Group), by Mojave 3, is a musical oasis. Slide-guitars and dreamy vocals are no mirage on this disc, which may have you convinced that this British band has relocated to Tucson, Arizona.

The Thrills (from Ireland) and the High Llamas (from England) practically declare "Surf's up!" with their brand of Southern California beach music. On their debut *So Much for the City* (Virgin), the Thrills revisit the days of beach blankets, bongos and boogie-boards with "Santa Cruz (You're Not that Far)" and "Big Sur." The High Llamas released their first album more than 10 years ago. On their new album



Beet, Maize & Corn (Drag City), strings, horns and soothing vocals conspire to make achingly gorgeous music.

Thump print

Chumbawamba has lost none of its political edge over the 20 years of its existence, even after its major hit single in 1997, "Tubthumping." The song makes a return appearance on the domestic reissue of *Readymades and Then Some* (Koch/Mutt). A bonus



DVD includes a "Tubthumping" remix by the Flaming Lips and Dave Fridmann, as well as three remixes of "Salt Fare, North Sea," and snippets from the Chumbawamba doc *Well Done, Now Sod Off*. With quotes in the CD booklet from Ani DiFranco, Langston Hughes, and Jean Arp, Chumbawamba also attempts to use its art as a means to broaden listeners' awareness of the world around them.

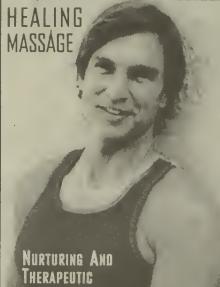
Black Box Recorder is one of the best British bands you've never heard of. After three wonderful albums on tiny domestic indie label Jetset, Black Box Recorder's new album *Passionista* (One Little Indian) sounds just as moody as their previous releases, but it's probably too cool for corporate-controlled radio. (Shame on your cloudy practices, Clear Channel!) Reminiscent of Saint Etienne in the way they blend dramatic and wispy female vocals with boogie-down beats, Black Box Recorder goes from rah-rah to raw in no time.

For the most part, Spiritualized has chosen to bury its cacophonous jam sessions towards the middle or end of albums, but on *Amazing Grace* (Spaceman/Sanctuary), they waste no time in letting the bluesy rock jams slice through.

Rock is back with a vengeance and wearing a zebra-striped Lyra unitard on *Permission To Land* (Atlantic) by the Darkness. Lead singer Justin Hawkins has a falsetto that sounds like a cross between Jimmy Somerville and the late Klaus Nomi. A full-fledged pottymouth, Hawkins uses the F-word in one form or another in at least three songs, which makes his rocker pose, part Freddie Mercury, part Steven Tyler, all the more convincing. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

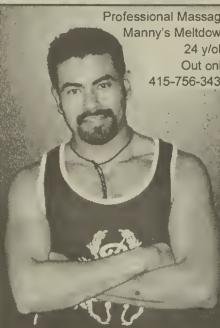
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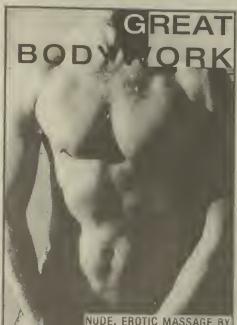
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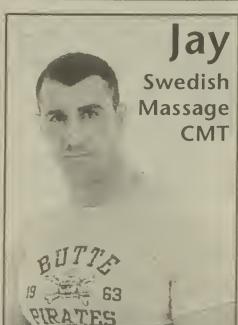
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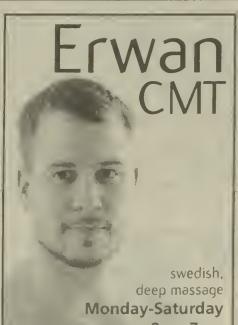
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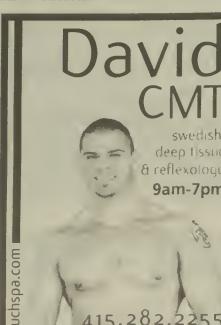
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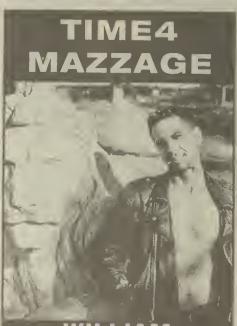
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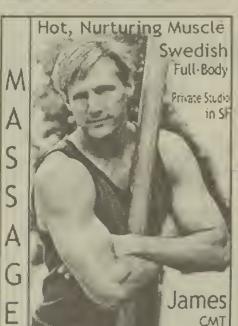
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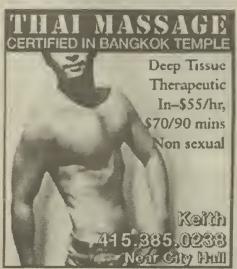
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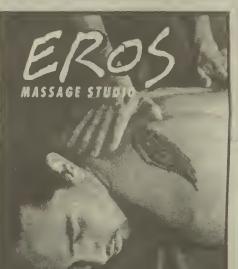
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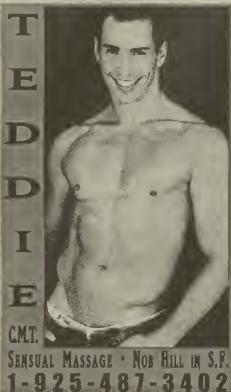
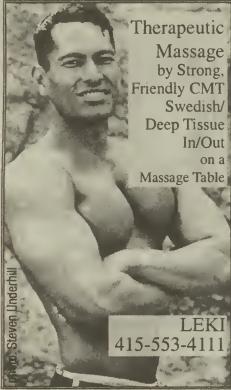
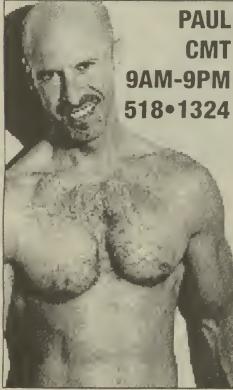
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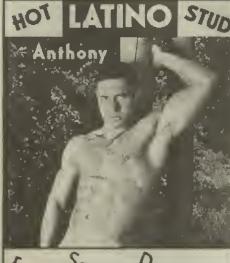
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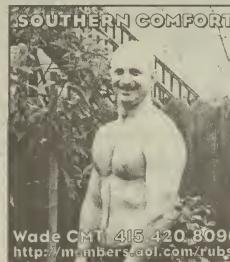
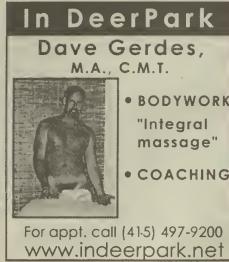
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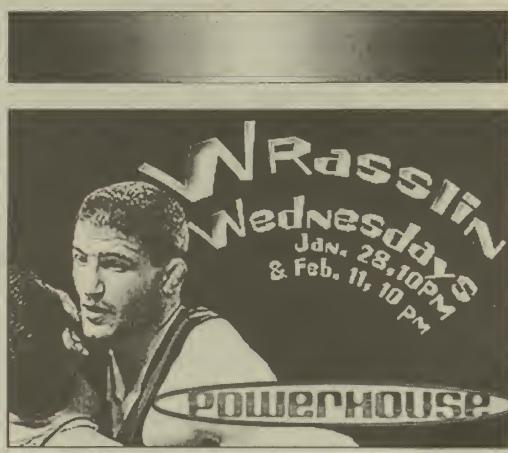
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for **FREE**

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Rasslin
Wednesday Jan. 28, 10PM & Feb. 11, 10PM

POWERHOUSE



XXX WEB

HUNGRY FOR SEX?

ORDER IN... OR EAT OUT!

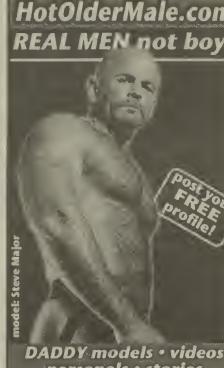
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REAL MEN not boys



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VALENTINE'S DAY
8-11 PM

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- Minimum \$10 charge on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

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Expiration Date _____
Signature _____
Name _____

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Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Number of Issues _____ Classification _____ Amount Enclosed _____

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I have HIV and I have

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After I contracted HIV I was asked when I would have boyfriends again.

I was amazed at the question because I believed having HIV meant I couldn't be sexual anymore.

Recently, I celebrated four years together with my domestic partner. Being HIV positive doesn't mean you can't have sex.

As long as I don't infect anyone else I can have as much sex as I want.

Tracy – Positive since 1989

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